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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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JON PEREZ
CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, right, administers the oath of office for Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) in yesterday's swearing in ceremony at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Peter sworn in as House member

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cast of the 21st Legislature's House of Representatives is now complete, with Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) being sworn in yesterday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Peter won the House seat

See PETER on Page 4

April 4 start for CW-1 petitions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Employers can now begin preparing the CW-1 employment petitions for their foreign workers for fiscal year 2020, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ready to accept them beginning April 4, 2019.

This time, USCIS will be requiring all CW-1 filings to include an approved temporary labor certification from U.S. Department of Labor.

All CW-1 petitions that have a start date on or after Oct. 1, 2019, that are filed without an approved TLC from U.S. Labor will be rejected.

Employers must also include a

See CW-1 on Page 4

NMHC: Lower Mihaville to be sold as a whole

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Lower Mihaville estate will be sold as a whole—all 45 units together—and not as individual home units.

Jacob Muña, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s office manager, said yesterday that the housing units in Lower Mihaville will be put up for lease or for sale but interested investors would have to purchase all 45 units altogether.

"We are still selling the 45 units in Lower Mihaville. We're not selling them individually. We're selling/leasing it as a whole," he said.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios said that the Lower Mihaville estate would be put up for sale or lease but did not clarify whether it would be as a whole or as individual units.

Muña added that a request for proposals will be issued soon but there is no exact date. "Once everything settles, we can put out the RFP," he said.

The last issued RFP for the Lower Mihaville estates in Garapan was issued back in December 2017 and many came out to the pre-proposal

See NMHC on Page 4

Evidence related to Rota mayor's other trips OK'd for introduction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will allow the U.S. government to introduce evidence relating to three other trips that Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend took.

Manglona

In an order Friday, Manglona found that the evidence relating to additional trips is not "other acts" evidence but direct evidence of the crimes charged, and is therefore admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence.

"Whether such evidence is admissible under Rule 403 or should be excluded on grounds of undue delay and needless cumulation is best determined in the context of trial, during which defendants are free to raise it or any other objection under the Federal Rules of Evidence," she said.

Manglona said she reached the ruling after considering the papers filed about the motion, the testimony of the U.S. government's witness, Office of the Public Auditor investigator Travis Hurst, and the

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Local

BankGuam, Otis settle with IPI staff over elevator mishap

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The mother company of the bank of Guam, BankGuam Holding Co., and Connecticut-based Otis Elevator Co. have entered into a confidential agreement that settles a lawsuit filed by an employee of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. who alleged being injured when a cup of hot coffee he was holding spilled on his hand while he was inside an elevator in a bank's building in Garapan.

The parties in the case submitted their confidential settlement agreement Friday to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for approval.

The parties consent to the jurisdiction of U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy for the purpose of reviewing and approving the settlement.

Randyl W. Kruid is represented by counsel Bruce Berline. Thomas Clifford is counsel for BankGuam Holding Co. Daniel T. Guidotto is the lawyer for Otis Elevator Co.

In his lawsuit, Kruid asked the court to hold BankGuam and Otis liable to pay him damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

Imperial Pacific is leasing office spaces on the fourth floor of the Bank of Guam building. Kruid is an employee.

According to the complaint, Kruid arrived at the Bank of Guam building for work early in the morning of Nov. 22, 2018, and, as usual, took the stairs up to his fourth floor office.

After arriving at his office, Kruid realized that he had to return to his vehicle to retrieve his computer.

With a hot cup of coffee in his hand, the plaintiff walked downstairs to the parking lot where his vehicle was parked and retrieved his laptop.

Kruid entered the elevator and pushed the button to ascend to the fourth floor.

Once the elevator doors closed and the elevator began ascending, it allegedly unexpectedly started to violently shake and shudder.

The elevator's sudden shaking and shuddering was so violent that it caused the hot coffee to spill on the back of Kruid's left hand.

Kruid's hand was allegedly burned and required medical attention.

Point-in-Time count this weekend

The third annual Point-in-Time count will take place this Saturday and the CNMI Homeless Coalition is urging interested volunteers to sign up before Friday.

According to Jacob Muña, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. office manager and CNMI Homeless Coalition member, the coalition is scheduled to conduct the point-in-time count on Saturday, from 7am to 7pm, and the coalition already has nearly 100 volunteers.

However, volunteers can still sign up before Friday for a short briefing before the actual count.

Muña said that skipping a count is not an option if the coalition still aims to apply for the Continuum of Care grant.

Last year, over 1,000 individuals were considered homeless by HUD definition. That means actual homelessness or living in a home unfit for human habitation.

This year, the number of heads counted during the point-in-time count could possibly be higher because individuals still living in tents will also be counted.

The count is prerequisite for every community that receives federal funds for programs that aid the homeless, particularly the COC grant.

Interested volunteers can contact Muña at 234-7670 or email him at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

The Tinian and Rota count will be conducted late in April. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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Building a business from the ground up

4EVER CNMI wood art are ready to get customized. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gamil.com
CORRESPONDENT

Cultural diversity may be the operative term of the day, but local heritage remains steadfast and celebrated with the help of businesses like 4EVER CNMI. In fact, it is the company's raison d'être.

As a new player in the retail business, 4EVER CNMI's motto is written on every apparel, product, and service that they offer: "Made in the CNMI."

According to 4EVER CNMI owner Sheanna Pangelinan, her business plan was simple—to promote and preserve island culture.

"The CNMI has relied almost entirely on imported goods and it is difficult to find 'Made in the CNMI' gifts, décor, and memorabilia. … Shirts say 'Saipan' but it was produced in China," she said.

"Many locals and visitors alike seek out 'Made in the CNMI' products…that represent the beauty and special cultural identity of the Northern Mariana Islands. …The goal is to put logo, create art and write sayings on wood, shirts, hats that [promote] the island culture," she added.

Pangelinan comes from a business-oriented family but her passion for art is the real driver of 4EVER CNMI. "I got my first exposure when I joined the Flame Tree [Festival] in 2016 and sold handcrafted and hand-painted wood signs. The experience was really good and then we started to supply products to other stores like Zori-Zori," she said.

"Eventuall,y we decided to open our own store after we switched from sole proprietor to LLC in February last year. We secured the location and, with the help of my partner, Victor Flores, we did everything with our bare hands… Our target market are Chamorros, tourists, and anyone who has ties with the CNMI," she added.

4EVER CNMI's unique business culture has already garnered a following. Aside from apparel and artwork, the store also custom-make wood signs, stickers, T-shirts caps, sand-carving on glass, stainless steel, and metal.

"I get feedback where I have customers say that finally we have a shop that they can go to have an item customized and not get asked to get the order in bulk," Pangelinan said.

"…Sometimes the customer walks in with a design on hand and others come to me for ideas and we work on it," she added.

Pangelinan does the whole process—from art design to final product. "It has always been my passion to do art and I just never saw myself actually doing something about it. My whole career has been in the Human Resources field at Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Northern Marianas College, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. so this was a hobby that became a store," she said.

"I don't charge customers extra art fee. As long as you buy a shirt and you give me a design, we will be glad to produce it for you… I want everyone to feel free to come in and express themselves through artwork," she added

Pangelinan admits that starting a business is tough. "During the planning stage, I was anxious thinking of other responsibilities like rent, etc., and was in panic with thoughts of 'I am just going to sell wood art and apparel, nobody knows me yet and I am not going to make money.' I realized that many locals that have talent and want to open a business give up halfway because they don't know which office to go to for guidance and then the funding… I know all of that," she said.

"The CNMI Small Business Development Center gave me a lot of support, so whenever I was on the verge of giving up, they would give me that 'push'…Today, my reward is seeing a person at the store holding a piece of my art work and is happy about it. …The experience of the customers moves me and it makes all the sacrifices worthwhile," she added

4EVER CNMI is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm in Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose. For more information, call (670) 235-CNMI (2664),

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DHS/FEMA funding for the CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is getting additional federal grant funds for damage to their system as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

This award provides $10,644,640.83 in additional federal funds as a result of the cost-share adjustment.

The money comes from FEMA's Public Assistance program that reimburses communities and certain non-profit groups to help recover from disasters. ***(PR)***

DPS: No down 911 line

The Department of Public Safety assures the CNMI community that reports of downed 911 lines have been investigated and no downed lines were discovered.

According to DPS, they have looked into the complaint about the 911 emergency line last Thursday and found no evidence of a down 911 line.

DPS tested the 911 system and verified that all 911 calls are being routed to their respective dispatch centers. The department is urging the CNMI community to refrain from calling emergency numbers just to test its functionality, and only call 911 in an emergency. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Free probate workshop on Tinian

The Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be holding a free probate workshop on March 28, at the Tinian Public Library, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

The workshop covers two sessions, including preliminaries to filing in court, accessing bank funds, and handling small estates. Materials on the related subject will be provided.

The workshop will be handled by directing lawyer Jane Mack. This is part of a series of workshops related to probate manners.

For questions or to register call 234-7729 or email pollyanne@mlscnet.org. ***(PR)***

CUC warns vs use of large appliances

Those living in the villages of Kagman, Koberville, Dandan, As Terlaje, and Fina Sisu are being urged to conserve their use of high-powered appliances that may result in low voltage performance due to the ongoing work being performed by line crews of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contractor. Primary Source Electric, today, March 27, 2019.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, in open ocean, at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Air Force is conducting training at Farallon de Medinilla until March 29, from 8am to 10pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise from 7pm of March 28, to 1am of March 29, at the following coordinates: 13° 26"N/145° 08"E, 13° 42"N/144° 36"E.

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 30, from 10am to 6pm. ***(PR)***

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On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While current supplies last. 2019 CX-5 Sport total price is $23,995. Financed at 4.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $361.37 or $166 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,682.20.

Man pleads not guilty to 6 traffic, criminal violations

A man pleaded not guilty to all six traffic and criminal violations charges against him last Monday, including allegedly causing a stolen vehicle to catch fire.

Alii Jima Ichihara, 20, pleaded not guilty to the charges of theft of a vehicle, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, speeding, no operator's license, reckless driving, and criminal mischief.

Ichihara was brought before the court last March 18 for an arraignment hearing.

During the hearing, Ichihara entered his not guilty plea before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Naraja scheduled a case management conference for Ichihara on April 13, 2019, before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

According to court information, Ichihara was issued a penal summons for multiple crimes he allegedly committed back on Feb. 5, 2019, when he allegedly stole the vehicle of Ashley Marie Taisacan without her consent.

Ichihara was allegedly caught with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.1-percent or more while under the age of 21.

Ichihara was also allegedly speeding, caught operating the stolen vehicle without a license, and was operating the stolen vehicle with disregard for the safety of people and surrounding property.

Lastly, Ichihara, on the same day, allegedly wrecked the vehicle and caused it to catch fire and, in the process, completely destroying it. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CW-1

From Page 1

prevailing wage rate when petitioning a guest worker for a fiscal year 2020 CW-1 visa.

"The TLC will confirm to USCIS that there is not a qualified U.S. worker available to fill the employer's job opportunity in the CNMI, and that the employment of a CW-1 worker will not adversely affect the wages or working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers," said USCIS in a statement.

In a statement sent to *Saipan Tribune*, the Torres administration thanked the U.S. Department of Labor for the new labor certification process for CW-1 petitions based on the published Interim Final Rule.

"The new regulations, mandated under the NMI U.S. Workforce Act, establishes an added requirement as a prerequisite for approval by [the U.S. Department of Homeland Security] of an employer's CW-1 worker petition and ensures protections for both CW and U.S. workers," said the Torres statement.

"The administration looks forward to working with USDOL as it conducts educational outreach on this new labor certification process within the next 120 days as mandated by Public Law 115-218 [the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018]. This will allow for greater clarity for businesses and the community at large for obtaining a CW-1 visa and for the ongoing development of more U.S. workers in our economy."

The NMI Workforce Act extended the CW-1 program to the year 2029 and set a numerical cap for each fiscal year until then: 13,000 (FY 2019), 12,500 (2020), 12,000 (2021), 11,500 (2022), 11,000 (2023), 10,000 (2024), 9,000 (2025), 8,000 (2026), 7,000 (2027), 6,000 (2028), 5,000 (2029), and 1,000 (first quarter of fiscal year 2030).

USCIS will announce additional guidelines in submitting CW-1 petitions in the coming days.

"Other than complying with the TLC requirement applicable to CW-1 petitioners with employment start dates on or after Oct. 1, 2019, CW-1 petitioners should continue to follow current USCIS regulations, procedures, and forms," said USCIS.

Enough CW1 slots

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., meanwhile, reminds employers that they are still trying to come up with a prevailing wage for the CNMI and they must not worry as there are enough CW-1 slots available based on USCIS data.

"The NMBAC has recommended that employers that will be submitting applications for a CNMI prevailing wage determination from the U.S. [Labor] should know that there is no current CNMI prevailing wage available for CW-1 applicants," NMBAC president Alex Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

"The [CNMI] Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, through Hive Analytics and DataTalks, will conduct a sector-by-sector prevailing wage survey, which should…[be] completed by May 16. An announcement of the completion and posting to the CNMI Prevailing Wage website will be forthcoming."

Sablan again reminded employers to wait until a CNMI prevailing wage is established. "It's only a recommendation that employers wait for a CNMI Prevailing Wage posting because the current law requires that, in the absence of a CNMI Prevailing Wage, U.S. DOL foreign labor desk adjudicators must use the 'mean' wage determination of Guam for CW-1 applications."

He added that there are enough CW-1 slots. "There is no risk of running out of CW-1 visas this fiscal year [2020] as was indicated by USCIS that less than 9,000 of the 13,000 available CW-1 visa quotas were utilized in fiscal year 2019. There are no new hotels or industries opening in fiscal year 2020 so the chances of visas running out is not likely."

"Again, we encourage everyone to wait for the 2019 Saipan Chamber of Commerce and CNMI DoC Prevailing Wage Survey to be complete before filing your wage determination," Sablan said.

EVIDENCE

From Page 1

lawyers' arguments.

After hearing the motion last March 15, the judge placed the matter under advisement.

Atalig and Evelyn Atalig are charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each of them also faces a separate charge of false statement.

The Ataligs allegedly arranged CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The U.S. government alleged that the primary purpose of these trips was not official business but personal travel or partisan political activity, for which the Ataligs fraudulently claimed per diem and travel reimbursement.

The superseding indictment lays out a scheme pertaining to five trips—March 2018 to San Diego, California for the annual Chamorro Cultural Festival; April 2018 to Saipan for the Micronesia Islands Forum and Flame Tree Festival; May 2018 to Palau for a *man'amko* cultural exchange; June 2018 to Guam to look for surplus equipment, which the U.S. government claims was really for a political rally; and August 2018 to Saipan for an agricultural fair but which the prosecution claims was really for political campaign events.

The U.S. government then informed the court that it intends to introduce evidence of three other trips during trial.

The three trips are the Jan. 3 to 7, 2018, trip to Guam for a Chamorro local medicine conference; in late June and early July 2018 to South Korea for a Little League baseball tournament in which a Rota team participated; and July 17 to 22, 2018 to Guam in preparation for the Liberation Day Parade.

Mayor Atalig sought to have those evidences excluded as improper "other acts" evidence or as unfairly prejudicial. Evelyn Atalig joined in the motion.

The U.S. government later said it will seek to introduce evidence of a fourth trip—a July 13 - 15, 2018, trip to Guam for the Asan Landing Memorial ceremony.

In her order last Friday, Manglona said the defendants are not facing separate charges for each individual trip. Rather, a single charge of wire fraud and a single charge of federal funds theft encompass the whole series of trips, she said.

The judge said the superseding indictment clearly put defendants on notice that the charges are "not limited to" the five trips.

Manglona said evidence of other trips taken for personal or political purposes at government expense goes to the existence of a scheme to defraud.

She said it also goes to show the elements of a conspiracy to commit a federal offense.

Manglona said the three additional trips in June and July 2018 are within the time frame of the charged fraudulent scheme and conspiracy.

"Evidence of those trips is direct evidence of the crimes charged," she said.

Manglona said the Jan. 3-7 trip also is direct evidence.

She noted that the superseding indictment charges that the scheme and conspiracy began "in or about February 2018."

PETER

From Page 1

for Precinct 3 after it became vacant when representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz died early this year.

Peter emerged as the victor in a four-way race in last Saturday's special election, garnering 863 of the 1,737 votes cast or 49.68 percent. He defeated former representative Donald C. Barcinas of the local Democratic Party (447), and independent bets Mariana DLG Fajardo (233) and David C. Sablan (194).

Peter is the son of David Peter and former representative Malua T. Peter. His father, a Vietnam War veteran, is a known musician that penned the Carolinian verses of the CNMI anthem, *Gi Talo Gi Halom Tasi/Satil Matawal Pacifico*, while his mom served in the ninth to 12th legislatures.

Dela Cruz was re-elected to the 21st Legislature in last year's elections but died last Jan. 6, a week before the first organizational session of the House on Jan. 14.

Camacho, before administering Peter's oath, first explained the history and importance of the oath of office. He pointed out that there is only one oath of office for all judges, elected officials, law enforcement, and attorneys and it is embedded in the CNMI Constitution "because no judge, governor, and even the Legislature—House and Senate—has authority or power to change the highest law of the land.

"When you take your oath, you bind yourself [and] your loyalty to the people of the Commonwealth," he added.

In a brief speech after taking his seat in between Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) of Precinct 2 and Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan) of Precinct 1, Peter thanked his family and Precinct 3 voters for giving him the chance to represent them.

He added that Dela Cruz's shoes would be hard to fill but he is ready for the challenge of continuing his work. "The late [Frank] Dela Cruz was a champion protecting our people, environment, and community. I intend to honor him by continuing to do the same. I know it will be a lot of hard work, but I am ready for the challenge."

"It is a privilege to work with our Republican administration under the leadership of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; along with the 21st Senate through the leadership of Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and my House colleagues through the leadership of Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan)."

Peter said he is also ready to cooperate with the mayors of the four municipalities and recognized the importance of all the children in the CNMI and the environment. "Our children deserve the best place to grow and raise their own children. As a show of our love to them, we must protect our environment and our islands while seeking ways to improve the economy. This balancing act is not easy, but if we work together, I believe we can succeed. "

"Visitors come to our islands to enjoy what makes us unique and different from the rest of the United States—our distinct culture, our beautiful environment, and our proximity to Asia. We must protect our environment in order to remain a preferred island destination."

He vowed to serve the people to the best of his abilities and urged all elected leaders to encourage local entrepreneurship. "We must also encourage and teach our people about entrepreneurship so they can own their own business, and provide tourist-related activities and benefit from our main economic engine."

NMHC

From Page 1

meeting, but no one actually submitted a proposal.

Muña said the privately-owned units in the Lower Mihaville area, as well as the units that are still occupied by NMHC housing programs, will not be included in the units that will be put up for sale/lease.

"There are some properties in the Mihaville that are privately owned, but the other 45 abandoned units are ours," he said.

The Lower Mihaville estate is only one of multiple properties that the corporation is putting up for sale or for lease.

According to Palacios, the corporation has already put up other properties for sale or lease in Kagman, Dandan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We're making them available for both [sale or lease]. The one for lease is for those people who are not [of Northern Marianas descent] so if you're not from here, you can still lease the property for 55 years, so we're not limiting the ownership to NMDs. It's for everyone," said Palacios.

The properties that have already been put up for sale are the properties the corporation acquired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "For us to get our money back, we have to sell the properties," he said.

All the properties that are up for sale or lease are residential, according to Palacios. "We don't have vacant lands. They'll have houses on them, but most are abandoned," he said.

Palacios added that the properties that are up for sale or lease are properties that individuals have shown interest in.

"One of the other reasons we sell these properties is because people come to us and they show interest. …Whenever someone is interested, that's when we actually try to sell it," he said.

For more information, visit the NMHC office in Garapan.

CUC's non-revenue water loss improves to 62 percent

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Saipan's non-revenue water—unaccounted and wasted water—went down to 62 percent from a high 77 percent shortly after Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore said last week that U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David Carter is very happy with the improvement of the non-revenue water situation.

Before Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25, CUC's non-revenue water was at 50 percent, then it jumped to 77 percent during the storm because a lot of leaks occurred and several wells went offline.

"It's at 62 percent now," said Gilmore.

At a recent CUC board meeting, board treasurer Matthew Holley identified non-revenue water loss as one of the items that CUC needs to improve on, as well as past and current billings with certain government entities, a five-year plan, and to better train and promote the staff.

With respect to water services, Gilmore said they have been able to maintain the 100 percent water supply islandwide.

He said there are issues of leaks but that's normal until they have replaced all the pipe lines.

He said they put together their priority list for the next round of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's funding.

Gilmore said their wastewater treatment facilities are functioning, however, the clarifier down in Agingan is still offline. This should be operational again soon.

Welcome aboard, Mx.: United offers non-binary gender booking options

GUAM—United Airlines customers now have the ability to identify themselves as M(male), F(female), U(undisclosed) or X(unspecified) when booking a flight with the airline.

In a statement yesterday, United Airlines said it has become the first U.S. airline to offer non-binary gender options throughout all booking channels in addition to providing the option to select the title "Mx." during booking and in a MileagePlus customer profile.

The gender a passenger chooses when booking a United flight should correspond with what is indicated on their passports or identification.

"United is determined to lead the industry in LGBT inclusivity, and we are so proud to be the first U.S. airline to offer these inclusive booking options for our customers," said United's chief customer officer Toby Enqvist. "United is excited to share with our customers, whether they identify along the binary of male or female or not, that we are taking the steps to exhibit our care for them while also providing additional employee training to make us even more welcoming for all customers and employees."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Airlines is providing its customers the option to select the title "Mx." during booking and in a MileagePlus customer profile.

As part of implementing these new changes, United has worked with the Human Rights Campaign and The Trevor Project on employee training initiatives. These initiatives include teaching employees about preferred pronouns and the persistence of gender norms, LGBT competency in the workplace and other steps to make United an inclusive space for both customers and employees.

"At the Human Rights Campaign, we believe being acknowledged as the gender you identify with is part of treating everyone with dignity and respect," said Beck Bailey, acting director of the Workplace Equality Program. "By providing non-binary gender selection for ticketing and the gender-inclusive honorific 'Mx' in user profiles, United Airlines is taking an important step forward for non-binary inclusion."

"The Trevor Project is grateful for United Airlines' support of our life-saving work on behalf of LGBTQ youth," said Amit Paley, CEO and executive director of The Trevor Project. "We are thrilled to bring Trevor's expertise on the mental health of LGBTQ people to United to ensure its employees maintain safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ employees and guests."

The changes to the booking process are now currently available. ***(PR)***

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Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Bank of Hawaii Corporation
and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2018 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Interest-Bearing Deposits in Other Banks	$ 3,028	Deposits	$15,027,242
Investment Securities	5,490,034	Short-Term Borrowings	199
Funds Sold	198,860	Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase	504,296
Loans Held for Sale	10,987	Retirement Benefits Payable	40,494
Loans and Leases	10,448,774	Accrued Interest Payable	8,253
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	(106,693)	Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes	19,736
Net Loans and Leases	10,342,081	Other Liabilities	139,911
TOTAL EARNING ASSETS	16,044,990	Other Debt	135,643
Cash and Due From Banks	324,081	TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,875,774
Premises and Equipment, Net	151,837		
Accrued Interest Receivable	51,230	Shareholders' Equity	
Foreclosed Real Estate	1,356	Common Stock	577
Mortgage Servicing Rights	24,310	Capital Surplus	571,704
Goodwill	31,517	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	(51,043)
Bank-Owned Life Insurance	283,771	Retained Earnings	1,641,314
Other Assets	230,882	Treasury Stock, at Cost	(894,352)
TOTAL ASSETS	$17,143,974	TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,268,200
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$17,143,974

BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN
STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2018 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	$ 1,646	Deposits	$ 198,616
Loans, Net of Unearned Income	29,729	Accrued Interest Payable	101
Allowance for Loan Losses	(708)	Other Liabilities	30
Net Loans	29,021	TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 198,747
Accrued Interest Receivable	187		
Due from Head Office	166,564		
Premises and Equipment, Net	631		
Other Assets	698		
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 198,747		

The audit reports of Bank of Hawaii Corporation and Bank of Hawaii - Saipan Branch are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-038

Opening Date: 03/27/2019
Closing Date: 04/02/2019

Comptroller

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Comptroller. CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI")—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

The Corporation is seeking a dynamic, experienced professional Comptroller, with strong collaborative leadership skills and demonstrated expertise in all areas of municipal and utility finance. The Comptroller reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Corporation and will lead fiscal departments and key professionals to ensure fiscal compliance with standard accounting practices and principles.

- Oversees management of various internal fiscal departments, including Accounting, Payroll, Treasury, Billing &Collections, Disputes and the Warehouse as delegated by the CFO.
- Monitors the corporation's cash flows.
- Directs and makes certain that financial reports are produced timely, accurately and in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other federal requirements.
- Establishes and enforces internal controls and facilitates changes to the controls when error or potential for error or fraud is identified.
- Conducts planned and unplanned random internal audits to ensure compliance of regulations, policies and procedures and to protect CUC and its consumers against fraud and error.
- Monitors and randomly audits payroll, bank reconciliations, sales and bank deposits, payables, receivables and inventory.
- Assists in development and maintenance of corporate financial policies and procedures.
- Makes certain the company is in compliance with federal and state government reporting requirements.
- Makes recommendations on financial software should the need for change or enhancements are in order.
- Makes recommendations to improve the efficiency of the various fiscal department operations.
- Responsible for key professionals within the finance department as designated by the CFO and ensures that principle assignments are produced timely and accurately.
- Recommends changes or updates to the corporation's policies and procedures that affect the finances of the corporation.
- Assists the CFO in a long-term Strategic Planning activity based budgeting and financial analysis and forecasting.
- Performs various reviews and analysis and prepares reports for the CFO, Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors.
- Works with the division operations managers to develop and up-hold high standards of accountability, transparency, and strict fiscal compliance, as well as make recommendations to improve efficiency that would result in savings to the corporation.
- Assist the CFO in all fiscal requirements and special projects, including utility rate reviews and assessments as assigned.
- Supervises staff and makes recommendations to hire and impose corrective/disciplinary actions as warranted.
- Performs other related duties and responsibilities.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Comptroller must have the following:
- Education:
  - o Bachelor's degree in Finance or Accounting, or Business Administration and/or related field from a United States accredited institution or one with equivalent accreditation and at least eight (8) years of strong operations management experience required.
- Experience:
  - o Eight (8) years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting, including experience in a supervisory and/or management position.
  - o A Certified Public Accountant or Certified Management Accountant is preferred but not required (Position also based on experience)
- Certification and Licensing:
  - o Ability to obtain and maintain a CNMI driver's license of the appropriate class upon hire is required.
- Must demonstrate the following:
  - o Experience in Strategic Planning activity based budgeting and financial analysis and forecasting.
  - o Experience in auditing financials
  - o General knowledge of utility operations, debt collection practices, and limitations.
- Knowledge of:
  - o Supervisory principles;
  - o Managerial and leadership principles;
  - o Knowledge in tax planning and compliance
  - o Knowledge in Cash Flow forecasting
  - o Mathematical principles.
- Skill in:
  - o Monitoring and evaluating staff;
  - o Effective communication and writing skills
  - o Prioritizing and assigning work to staff;
  - o Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations;
  - o Applying accounting procedures and principles;
  - o Developing and implementing procedures and standards;
  - o Analyzing accounting transactions;
  - o Establishing internal control and compliance systems and information systems;
  - o Using computers and related software applications;

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY INFORMATION: $56,437 to $73,010 per annum, Exempt
(Based on credentials and specialized experience and whether applicant has a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia)

POSITION: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:

   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

4. Drop Off:
   You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-033

Opening Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Closing Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Compliance Officer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. The Compliance Officer performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; investigates alleged violations such as illegal connections; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations. Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed. Conduct or direct the internal investigation of compliance issues. Identify compliance issues that require follow-up or investigation. Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions. Report violations of compliance or regulatory standards to duly authorized enforcement agencies as appropriate or required. Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents. Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations. Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed. Performs safety and compliance related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by on-call designation on alternating basis. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S): **Administration/Safety Office**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $40,084.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class. Position may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Emergency Responder Certification, Hazmat and OSHA Certifications. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-032

Opening Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Closing Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Safety Officer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. The Safety Officer complies with all occupational health and safety guidelines and ensures that Site Safety and Health Plan is prepared and implemented. Inspect work sites and review working conditions. Responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures to assure personnel safety. Test workplaces for environmental hazards, such as exposure to radiation, chemical or biological hazards, or excessive noise. Verify availability or monitor use of safety equipment, such as hearing protection or respirators. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Update procedures and policies for new regulations or local ordinances. Supply, operate, or maintain personal protective equipment, ensure all personnel follow all personal safety precautions. Maintain all required environmental records and documentation. Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions. Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents. Performs safety related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by on-call designation on alternating basis. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

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POSITION(S): One (1)

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Defense: Someone has to pay

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense lawyer of a man who was accused of rape believes that the prosecutorial misconduct that resulted in the declaration of a mistrial in the case in February cost him over $1,000 in fees and someone has to pay it.

During a status conference for Manolo Romolor, a man who allegedly raped an intoxicated woman back in 2016, defense lawyer Bruce Berline filed a verbal motion for sanctions before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

Berline

Berline, the court-appointed lawyer, told the court that the amount of time spent preparing and defending his client for a jury trial that ended in a mistrial last February depleted his legal fees.

"The prosecutor's misconduct has wasted thousands and thousands of dollars of my fees so I am doing a motion for sanction because someone has got to pay one way or another," he said.

Berline added that he could take on the case pro bono, but the government would still need to provide funding for legal services, like if an investigator is needed.

"I would like to make an oral motion. There's no more money for fees. I might continue the case on kind of a pro bono if I can talk to my client about that but one thing I will need is services to be paid by the government… because he is still indigent," he said.

Berline also mentioned that if the funding is not provided, the case would have to be returned to the Office of the Public Defender.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery, who represented the government in the status conference asked if the defense would subpoena the prosecutor, Teri Tenorio, who was on the case previously.

However, Berline replied that it would not be necessary.

Tenorio is no longer with the Office of the Attorney General.

Naraja ordered Berline to submit an affidavit detailing the arrangement in place regarding his client's legal fees and to file written motion for sanction.

Naraja scheduled a hearing for April 30, 2019, at 9am for any motion filed by the parties, including Berline's motion for sanction.

Vickery and Berline, for their part, requested for trial transcripts.

"The only thing we would be asking is transcripts, we need transcripts," Berline said.

Naraja told the lawyers that he will issue an emergency order for the production of transcripts.

Romolor's new jury trial is scheduled for May 13.

PACIFICA'S CAR SERVICE GIVEAWAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019. Cerelito Gonzaga, center, the second winner of the giveaway promotion will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. Also in the photo are Pacifica staff members Jacky Teregeyo and Dana Manglona. For more information about this car service giveaway log on towww.pacificains.com/45years.

Junior High Mock Trial on March 30

Junior high and middle school students will be arguing a fictitious case of a child getting injured on a hike in the case of the *Justin Pangelinan vs. ForensiTech, Inc.* at the 14th Annual CNMI Junior High Mock Trial on Saturday, March 30, at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is a signature program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council where students learn about the law and standard courtroom procedures.

Though the program is non-competitive, special recognition will be given to students who give outstanding performances in their roles as attorneys or witnesses.

This year the participating schools are Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Rota Junior Senior High School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

Schools have been paired up over two rounds, which will be presided by a judge. This year's judges are Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The program begins Saturday, March 30, at 9am at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. It is free and open to the public.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in partnership with the CNMI Judiciary.

For more information, call Council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-SYSTEMS OF CARE-010
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2019 TIME: 03:00PM

"WRAPAROUND PROCESS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHC DIRECTOR OF P&S

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance March 28th, 2019 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from February 28th, 2018
II. **Public Comments**
III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. Committee
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. **Old Business**
   1. Re-examination of SHEFA application deadline for NMTI
   2. Marianas Public Land Trust financial assistance for eligible applicants
   3. Amendment to SHEFA Bylaws
V. **New Business**
   1. Spring 2019 application status
   2. Workforce Educational Build Up
VI. **Executive Session**
VII. **Misc.**
VIII. **Next Meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 8 am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/13/19)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
   - Letter from J. Maratita (Licensed Prof. Counselor & Clinical Psychology Associate)
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
   - Email from Dr. Y. Khan (Physician license #0640)
   - Professional Background Check
     - Which professions?
     - Costs/Budget & Feasibility?
     - Pass the cost on to the candidates?
   - Dental Regulations
   - Pharmacy Regulations
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
   A. New Applications
   B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
   A. Next Meeting Date
   B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-19-2014

Submission/Closing Date: April 22, 2019 Time: 3:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2021

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose, Saipan** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

NOTICE OF CHANGE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Technology Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (JKPL) has been moved to the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Conference Room, first floor of the CDA Building, San Jose Village, Saipan. The contents and order of the agenda published on Monday, March 25, 2019 remain the same. This change of venue is due to a recently scheduled power outage at the JKPL.

D&Q, P&G hand out 'Bags of Hope' relief distribution

Proctor & Gamble and D&Q recently collaborated to distribute "Bags of Hope" in a relief distribution throughout Saipan.

According to a D&Q statement, they were able to give out 1,000 bags that contained a Gain laundry bag, Gain laundry detergent, and Downy softener.

Last March 2, the company went house to house in the villages of Koblerville and San Antonio and visited the laundromats in those locations as well to distribute "bags of Hope."

Last March 9, the company set up popup tents in Dandan, Kagman, and Chalan Kanoa and did a drive-through distribution. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Training for search-and-rescue in the high seas

Pacific Partnership 2019 and Republic of the Marshall Islands began a search and rescue exercise last March 20.

The three-day exercise began with a planning meeting that was hosted by Coast Guardsmen from the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District.

District 14 covers the Coast Guard's largest area of responsibility which stretches from the Hawaiian Islands and across most of the Central and Western Pacific, to include the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"We have a close working relationship with the Marshall Islands and this planning meeting is a great opportunity for us to discuss any concerns and streamline our procedures to minimize casualties and maximize our ability to provide rescue assistance," said U.S. Coast Guard 14th District Joint Rescue Coordination Center chief Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Cooper.

Pacific Partnership acknowledges the complexity of disaster response operations and the leading part civilian organizations have. The mission provides a platform to deepen understanding and awareness of the military contribution and enhances key relationship with civilian partners.

Servicemembers from the U.S. Navy, Royal Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army along with Marshallese government officials from the Marshall Islands National Disaster Management Office, sea patrol and police department attended the planning meeting.

US NAVY /MCS1 TYRELL K. MORRIS

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Cooper speaks at a search and rescue planning meeting led by Coast Guardsmen from the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District during Pacific Partnership 2019.

A recent vessel grounding incident within the Marshall Islands prompted the meeting and was an opportunity for partner nations to conduct a knowledge exchange, cover lessons learned, and go over details for the upcoming field training exercise.

"It is important when working with partner nations and several different government organizations that everyone is speaking the same language and adhering to similar policies and procedures to ensure mission capability and sustainability," said Royal Navy Capt. Paddy Allen, Pacific Partnership 2019 director of mission.

Pacific Partnership aims to enhance host nation capability, build regional relationships and exercise a collective ability to respond to all hazards.

The U.S. Coast Guard will be leading the two day SAR-EX field training exercise in the Marshall Islands working with Marshallese sea patrol and local police to evaluate casualty response to a simulated distress incident.

The exercise aims to enhance the command, leadership and incident management capacity of local government agencies involved in disaster management and SAR operations, and allow partner nations the opportunity to integrate their skills sets as required.

The impact of disaster emergencies transcends borders and requires comprehensive preparation and coordination among nations for effective disaster response.

Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. ***(USCG)***

Meet-and-greet for 2019 Bizwoman of the Year nominees

BARRIGADA HEIGHTS, Guam—A powerhouse lineup of judges and supporters composed of female leaders from the business community attended a meet-and-greet luncheon last March 22 at the Hyatt Regency Guam to learn more about the eight 2019 Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year nominees and hear firsthand their successes and contributions.

Past winners and attendees congratulated and encouraged the nominees.

Since 2006, the Guam Business Magazine's Businesswoman of the Year program, through proceeds from its annual gala, has awarded a total of $274,260 in scholarships to 139 students in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

The eight 2019 nominees join 119 others from Guam and the CNMI who in the past 13 years have been recognized through the program for making significant contributions to their industries and demonstrating a strong commitment to their community.

The 2019 nominees are:

■ **Jessica M. Barrett,** president, Barrett Enterprises Inc., which does business as Barrett Plumbing;

■ **Frances O. Baumann,** owner and president, Baumann Advertising;

■ **Jessica R. Leon Guerrero,** president and owner, M80 Systems Inc., and brand manager, Island Wines & Spirits;

■ **Chen Yu Mack,** president and CEO, StayWell Insurance, and owner, Evergreen Health Center and Evergreen Pharmacy and Supplies;

■ **Caroline H. Sablan,** vice president and relationship banking manager, Bank of Guam;

■ **Rose A. Soledad,** general manager, IT&E CNMI;

■ **Pacita A. Tomada,** president and general manager, National Car Rental, and owner, SureStay Hotel by Best Western; and

■ **Vanessa L. Williams,** attorney at law and owner, Law Office of Vanessa Williams PC.

The 2019 Businesswoman of the Year award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 27 at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the Guam Business Magazine's May-June issue, which will feature a commissioned photo of the recipient on its cover.

The winner will join the previous Businesswoman of the Year award recipients, including Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014).

Tickets for the gala may be purchased by contacting admin@glimpsesofguam.com or ShaiAnna Palacios at (671) 649-0883 Ext. 252 or (671) 988-4907. ***(PR)***

From left, standing, Kristine R. Lujan, chairwoman, Guam Chamber of Commerce Business Women's Network, and 2019 judge; Madelaine Cosico, director of sales and marketing, Hyatt Regency Guam; representing the premier sponsor; Katherine C. Calvo, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board, Pay-Less Markets Inc., and 2006 awardee; Joyce Q. Crisostomo, executive director, Cars Plus and president, Payless Car Rental, and 2011 awardee; F. Marie Calvo-Monge, CEO and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc., which does business as KUAM, and 2013 awardee; Jay Jang, director of business, Korean Women's Association; Velma Palacios, director of network operations and engineering, IT&E CNMI, 2018 Business Person of the Year, and president, Saipan Chamber of Commerce; Lina S. Leon Guerrero, president, Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce; Maureen N. Maratita, publisher, Glimpses Media, and president, Businesswoman of the Year Inc.; Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam, and 2016 awardee; Mary Grace D. Jacot, president and CEO, SET Pacific Inc., and 2018 awardee; Joann G. Camacho, director of market development, DFS Guam, and 2015 awardee; Ramona L. Jones, CEO, Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., and 2017 awardee; Lorraine S. Okada, president and owner, Managing Consulting Services, and 2009 BWOY awardee; Jessica Castro, president, Soroptimist International of the Marianas, and president, Guam Council of Women's Clubs; Anna Wang Kao, founder and president, Genghis Khan Furniture Co., and 2010 awardee, all 2019 judges; Anita B. Enriquez, senior vice president of academic and student affairs, University of Guam; Judy Ho, president, Chinese Ladies Association of Guam; Geri Cordova, acting president, Soroptimist International of Guam, both 2019 judges; and (from left, seated) Rose A. Soledad, general manager, IT&E CNMI; Frances O. Baumann, owner and president, Baumann Advertising; Jessica M. Barrett, president, Barrett Enterprises Inc., which does business as Barrett Plumbing; Caroline H. Sablan, vice president and relationship banking manager, Bank of Guam; Chen Yu Mack, president and CEO, StayWell Insurance, and owner, Evergreen Health Center and Evergreen Pharmacy and Supplies; and Vanessa L. Williams, attorney and owner, Law Office of Vanessa Williams PC, all 2019 BWOY nominees. JACQUELINE CAHILL

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Democrats should produce a budget

The process of funding the U.S. government begins when the president submits a budget request to Congress in February. Then everything falls apart.

At least, that's the way things have been going, year after year. In a more rational world, Congress would prepare a budget resolution of its own, as the law requires. The details would be worked out in committees, and compromise between House and Senate versions would be achieved. Then Congress would use the final resolution to arrive at appropriations for each federal department and agency—bills that the president would sign into law by the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year.

But Congress has taken to sidestepping that crucial first budget resolution, and then dodging specific appropriations bills as well. When House Republicans were in charge last year, they failed to bring a budget to the floor, avoiding endorsing either the yawning deficit their recent tax bill had created or the unpopular program cuts that they contend are necessary to narrow it. Now Democrats are looking to duck their responsibility on the budget rather than risk a public fight over Medicare expansion, funding to address climate change and other controversial issues.

The lack of a congressional budget resolution doesn't mean that Congress will accept the president's budget. Far from it. Instead, party leaders jury-rig appropriations bills, now adding up to close to $5 trillion per year, without the benefit of orderly public hearings. Frequently, the spending bills are not done until after Oct. 1. The government is kept open via temporary spending bills known as continuing resolutions.

As a consequence, federal departments and contractors incur a costly loss of predictability and often higher expenses. And, of course, federal shutdowns happen with embarrassing frequency.

To their (partial) credit, Republicans last year managed to pass a handful of appropriations bills by the start of the fiscal year. But they left the rest of the government to be funded by continuing resolutions—with a lengthy and damaging shutdown in between resolutions. The madness ended only with an omnibus spending package signed into law in February.

Various fixes for this broken process have been proposed. Republican Senator David Perdue of Georgia has suggested, for instance, to raise the Senate vote threshold for final passage of a budget resolution from 51 votes to 60—on the theory that it would promote bipartisanship. But any reform that requires elusive bipartisanship may end up encouraging more legislative inertia, not less.

Consider the fate of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform. A bipartisan, bicameral special committee appointed by Congress last year with the aim of reforming the budget process, the committee disbanded in November without much to show for the effort.

The best solution is simple, if challenging. Congress

See DEMOCRATS on Next Page

NEVADA BILL WOULD ALLOW SOME 14-YEAR-OLDS TO DRIVE
TURN RIGHT HERE.
OK.
TAP TAP TEXT TAP
TAP TAP TEXT TAP
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/LAS VEGAS SUN 2019

Childcare is infrastructure. We should treat it that way

By LINDA K. SMITH and SARAH TRACEY
CQ-ROLL CALL

Millions of American parents dropped their children off at a childcare facility this morning. Chances are many of those facilities don't meet basic health and safety standards. Though we know the quality of a facility, whether a formal center or a family home care site, is directly linked to a child's development and well-being, we also know most places are far from optimal.

This is yet another way America's childcare system is failing families today.

Recent findings have been dire. A series of surveys conducted in 2013 and 2014 by the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general found that 96 percent of childcare programs inspected across 10 states had at least one potentially hazardous condition, such as broken or unlocked gates, water damage, or chemicals within reach of children.

In Massachusetts, a statewide study commissioned by the Children's Investment Fund found excessive levels of carbon dioxide in childcare facilities as well as insufficient ventilation systems and furnishings containing formaldehyde. Moreover, 80 percent of programs lacked classroom sinks, which can negatively affect children's hygienic practices and infection control. Exposure to lead and other toxins has detrimental impacts on young children, yet only eight states and New York City require childcare facilities to test their drinking water for lead.

Working parents, already faced with the challenges of finding and paying for high-quality childcare, are frequently forced to accept a poor-quality facility because it's the only option they have. One parent told us during a recent meeting that dropping her children off at a childcare center is like "bungee jumping." She's right: for many, it is a leap of faith.

The country is finally having a serious conversation about how best to care for children during their first five years before they enter school. What is missing from that conversation, however, is an acknowledgement of the abysmal conditions of many of our childcare facilities and a commitment to fixing the problem. Parents should be able to leave their children in childcare with the understanding that they are in safe and healthy learning environments that support their development—and this is just not happening.

Luckily for these families, some states are starting to recognize the link between quality of facilities and quality of care. The Preschool Development Birth Through Five grant competition is one new opportunity for states to consider the needs of early learning programs —including facilities —to improve overall quality in their state. Over half of states address early learning facilities in their grant applications, and eight—Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, New York and Oregon—indicate that they will specifically assess facility-related needs through the 2019 grant funding.

As these states begin to identify problems with childcare infrastructure, the time to raise federal awareness of the need for increased investments in childcare facilities is now. The issue is especially relevant as discussions of the need to strengthen the nation's aging infrastructure take place. Childcare is an essential part of communities, allowing parents to participate in the labor force and supporting economic growth. In fact, the Committee for Economic Development found that in 2016 the childcare industry in the United States produced revenue totaling $47.2 billion, with additional spillover revenue of $52.1 billion in other industries.

The Bipartisan Policy Center, working with more than 40 stakeholders across multiple sectors, developed the Early Learning Facilities Policy Framework. This framework identifies several principles that should guide policy and investments in childcare facilities, including the critical importance of childcare facilities to communities themselves and the national economy.

Congress must recognize that investments in childcare facilities are investments in the nation's infrastructure. To support children's development, childcare facilities need to move beyond the bare minimum—beyond "good enough"—and focus on components that can help children thrive.

The evidence is clear: childcare programs across the country are facing a problem. Providers, especially those who run small center-based programs or family childcare, do not have the financial resources to update, rehabilitate or expand their facilities. Furthermore, the profit margin for most childcare programs is minimal at best, leaving very little room for providers to take on debt.

To move beyond the culture of low expectations, childcare providers need more support. As Congress considers the entirety of the educational system from birth to post-college

See CHILDCARE on Next Page

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More than 61 pct. of children with a brain injury experience a disability

By GREG BORJA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"And we have a player shaken up on the field."

This was once a common phrase I would hear announcers say while watching a football game on TV. Little did I know that the athlete had actually sustained a concussion due to a head injury. I did not see the greater problem until I began working with youth in sports and began to understand the impact of an injury to the head. The current term for such injuries is a Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI.

The Centers for Disease Control recently released a report to U.S. Congress on the management of TBI in children, and some of the data is alarming. The report states that in 2013, 640,000 TBI-related emergency room visits were made. The major causes for the visits of children below 14 years old include falls and being struck by an object, like a ball, or being struck against an object, like a tree or fence.

One study mentioned in the report found that more than 61 percent of children with moderate to severe TBI experience a disability. These disabilities come in a range of impairments that may affect their cognitive function, motor skills, and/or may cause behavioral issues.

Children with TBI may be in need of special services when they return to school after an injury. These services and supports typically come from providers such as the Early Intervention Program or Special Education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or through accommodations through a Section 504 Plan under the Rehabilitation Act. These services are individualized to fit the learning needs of specific child. The student may need modifications or accommodations like rest breaks, more time to complete assignments or take tests, and/or help with schoolwork. Modifications and accommodations are put in place in order to give children opportunities to succeed in their education.

To read the full report, please visit the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.

For more information about educational services available through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, contact NMPASI at 235-7273 or visit us online at nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja is a projects specialist with the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

In times of tragedy, 'thoughts and prayers' do matter

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

Last week, the world watched with horror as a hate-inspired gunman slaughtered at least 50 people in two New Zealand mosques.

It was half a world away, but eerily familiar. We've seen this kind of evil carried out in our houses of worship before, in Charleston, S.C., Pittsburgh, Pa., in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and much closer to home, here in Fort Worth.

Many people expressed outrage and issued calls to action. Others offered sympathies, condolences and most importantly, prayers.

The latter response can feel rote and empty at times, especially when coming from politicians, despite the fact that for millions of people the world over, offers of prayer are meaningful, comforting and efficacious. So why is it that such sentiments have become, for a select group of public figures, a target for ridicule?

Following the New Zealand attacks, Democratic rising star Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York used her Twitter account to mock the tendency of some to resort to prayer in the face of tragedy.

"What good are your thoughts & prayers when they don't even keep the pews safe?" she posted, along with a video of the New Zealand prime minister. (In a clarifying tweet she praised the PM and accused the NRA of employing the phrase as a means of deterring policy change.)

Ocasio-Cortez isn't the first or even the most prominent person to criticize offers of prayer in the face of undeniable tragedy as insufficient and ugly. Urban Dictionary now offers a number of colorful definitions for the expression "thoughts and prayers," all of which deride the phrase as hollow and meaningless.

It can feel that way, especially when those offering them are almost certainly not actually praying.

But for those who faithfully pray, prayers are anything but futile, and the criticism of prayer as a response to unimaginable but inevitable earthly suffering suggests a fundamental misunderstanding about the purpose and meaning of any sincere appeal to a higher power.

People pray for myriad reasons, but in times of tragedy and loss prayers are offered not for the undoing of the unimaginable but for the strength to deal with it. Prayer is not a substitute for other human action; it is never intended to be. People pray for eternal rest of victims; they ask for comfort and resolve for survivors and families. They pray for guidance and wisdom of their leaders; they pray for understanding and they pray for mercy—intangibles that sweeping government policies and bureaucrats cannot and will never be capable of providing.

For prayer critics, the evidence that collective social media outrage and hashtag campaigns ultimately produce any more robust a policy response is wanting.

Perhaps more importantly, in the case of the New Zealand shootings—or Sutherland Springs or Charleston—the victims were praying as they died. Siraj Hashmi, a writer for the *Washington Examiner*, described those who mocked offers of prayer in the attacks' aftermath as "incredibly insensitive to my (M)uslim brothers and sisters who were slain in cold blood while they were literally praying because they want to be closer to their creator and they want to become better people."

Indeed, they were victims because they were praying. That hardly diminishes the need or value of their prayers.

No, prayer did not protect them from earthly death, but faithful people of many creeds believe prayer is opportunity to commune with God and to transcend what is temporal and fleeting. For many people of faith, meeting the inevitability of death in prayer is hardly the worst fate they will have to face.

Thoughts and prayers shouldn't be an excuse for inaction; for people who offer them sincerely, they are never intended to be. For those who believe in the power of pray, they never are.

CHILDCARE

From Page 10

training, it should consider the physical assets that underlie that system. Just as our bridges and roads are crumbling, so too are our childcare options. Childcare facilities are a vital part of America's communities. Let's stop ignoring them.

Linda K. Smith is director of BPC's Early Childhood Initiative and was a key architect of the military childcare system. Sarah Tracey is a senior policy analyst at BPC. The Bipartisan Policy Center is a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that actively promotes bipartisanship.

DEMOCRATS

From Page 10

should stop skirting its constitutional responsibility and set tax and spending levels for the federal government on time. To demonstrate what competent government looks like, and to show what their legislative priorities are heading into a presidential election, House Democrats should prepare a 2020 budget.

(c)2019 *Bloomberg News*

Unfair advantages are the rule in college

By RICHARD E. VATZ
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The late, brilliant comedian Joan Rivers' favorite catchphrase was "Grow up!" It was said in jest, but meant in earnest to wake her shocked audiences from their stupor long enough to realize that her comedic targets were doing horrible things all the time.

It is in this same spirit that I urge the nation to "Grow up!" in its understanding of the university admissions process. The incredulity expressed upon the "discovery" that television stars Lori Loughlin, Felicity Huffman and other high-powered principals conspired to fraudulently get their children and others entrance into elite colleges and universities is itself incredible.

While the individual criminality of the particular perpetrators – both applicants and school officials—is somewhat surprising, the academy, despite its claims of devotion to Lady Justice style blindness, has never been very meritocratic in its admissions practices.

The god-term in universities today is "diversity"—a goal articulated ostensibly to rectify past discrimination committed, in part, against groups, mostly minorities, who couldn't gain fair admission to higher education in the past. But the policies only selectively redress such unfair and unequal treatment: Jewish, Catholic and other disfavored applicants for most of the history of higher education were either not admitted to major universities or were limited by a quota system, but there are few compensatory initiatives at colleges and universities intended to redress those actions.

In fact, Harvard University's infamous race-conscious admissions policy has literally gone on trial. In the words of The Chronicle of Higher Education, "The case, brought by a nonprofit group called Students for Fair Admissions Inc. ... claims the university discriminates against Asian-American applicants by limiting the number of those students it admits."

Admission departments, often with little or no oversight within schools of higher education, arbitrarily establish priorities for small or large percentages of those they admit, including—in addition to varying weightings of grades and SAT and/or ACT scores and class rankings—such largely immeasurable factors as letters of recommendation, the reputation of your high school, your writing ability in essays, your outside interests, etc. Applying to an admissions officer who was a wrestler? You might be advantaged if you wrestle in high school.

The well-regarded College Board, on its website, states well the random array of entrance criteria in admissions policies around the country: "Geographic location, racial or ethnic background, extenuating or unusual life circumstances and experience living or studying overseas may all be influential."

Equally significant are attributes that are rarely written down: Money, societal position and legacy status are classic considerations among the non-meritorious criteria at most colleges and universities. Different colleges and universities allow admittance according to which relatives have gone there previously; in what sports applicants excel; how famous, wealthy and significant are the applicants' friends and kin; and generally whom they know.

There is no excusing the criminal fraudulent behavior in the scandalous college admissions bribery case now in focus nationwide, but let's not have crocodile tears implying that this is the only salient aspect of unfair competitive advantages in the academy: They are the rule, not the exception.

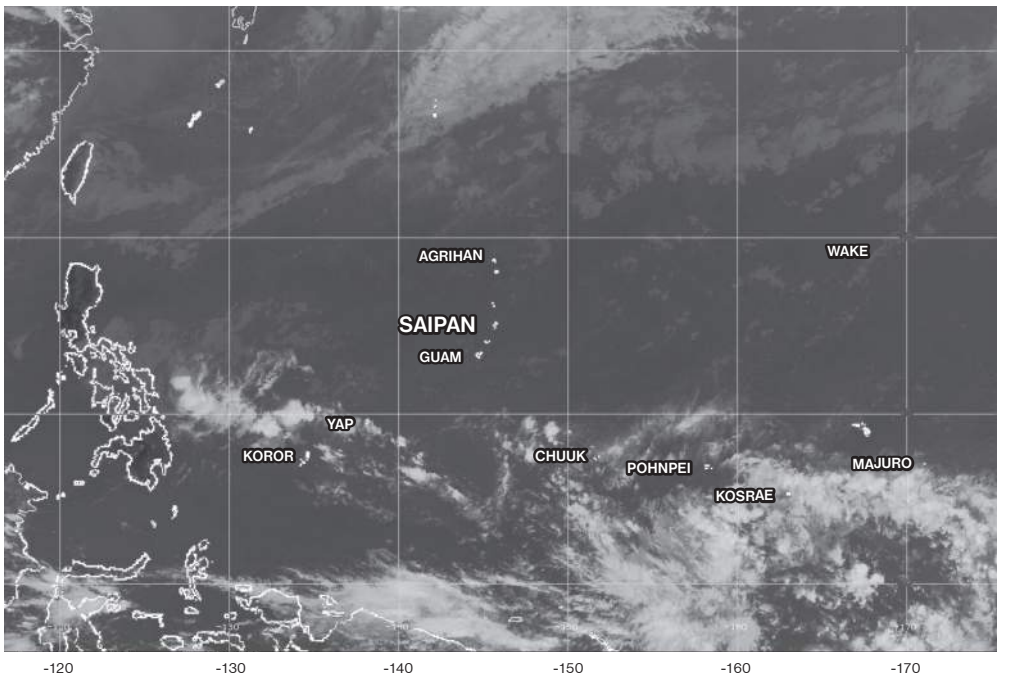
Richard E. Vatz, professor at Towson University and member of its University Senate for over 40 years, is author of The Only Authentic Book of Persuasion: The Agenda-Spin Model *(LAD Custom Publishing, 2019) and the co-editor of* Thomas S. Szasz: The Man and His Ideas *(Transaction Publishers, 2017).*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms
88° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change was made to the forecast, as dry weather should persist through the week. By Sunday, GFS brings a developing disturbance into the Marianas, but the ECMWF keeps everything south of Guam. Have left the isolated thunderstorms in for Sunday-Monday, since even if the ECMWF is more correct, deeper moisture on its north fringe could still spark a thunderstorm or two.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers	83° / 77°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	72° / 64°
Beijing	Cloudy	52° / 32°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 70°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 68°
London	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Manila	Showers	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 65°
New York	Mostly Sunny	47° / 35°
Osaka	Showers	59° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	57° / 39°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 43°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 39°
San Francisco	Showers	57° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 43°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	53° / 36°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
6:31 AM	LOW TIDE	1.10
11:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
7:06 PM	LOW TIDE	0.07

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:07 AM	-
Thursday	12:23 AM	11:56 PM	-
Friday	1:14 AM	12:47 PM	-
Saturday	2:03 AM	1:37 PM	-
Sunday	2:49 AM	2:27 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:50pm	7:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/193	6:25pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/1596:25pm		11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174 GUM-ROR	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China's Xi sees honors, Airbus deal in state visit to France

PARIS (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping received the full honors of a formal reception during a state visit to France on Monday that included attending the signing of a multi-billion dollar deal between European aircraft maker Airbus to China.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Xi's official visit was an "excellent signal" of the strength and reliability of relations between China and France. Appearing with the Chinese leader at the presidential Elysee Palace, Macron said the two countries want to build a "strong Euro-Chinese partnership, based on clear, strict and ambitious rules."

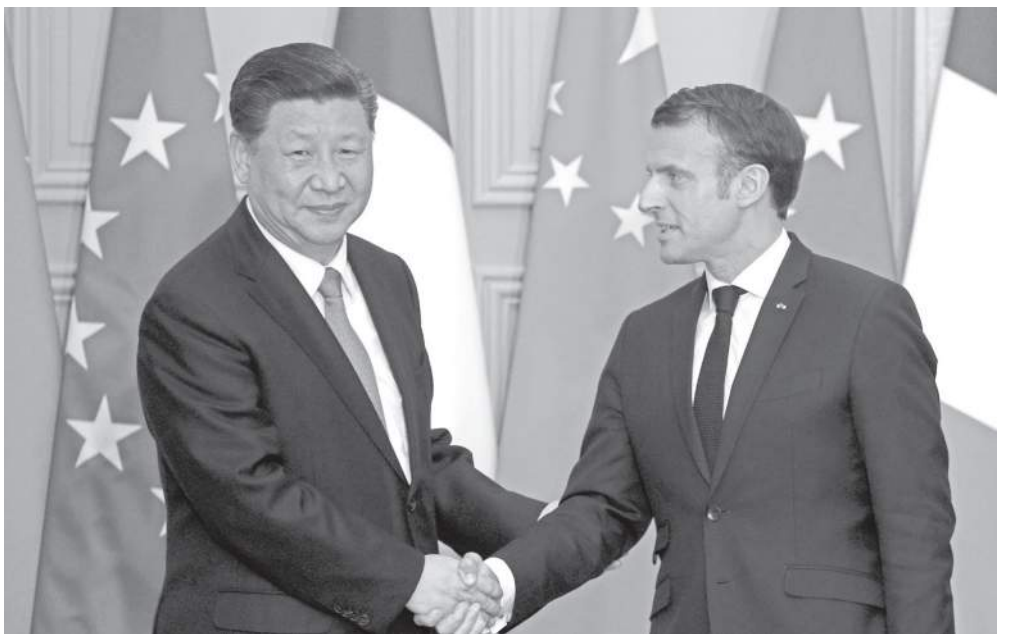
Xi, who plans to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Paris on Tuesday, said China "attaches great importance" to its relations with Europe.

European leaders want to increase trade with China, albeit on European terms, amid trade tensions between the United States and both China and the European Union.

The Airbus sale Xi saw finalized involves the sale of 300 airplanes. The China Aviation Supplies Holding Company has ordered 290 Airbus A320 and 10 Airbus A350, according to a statement from the French presidency.

The price was not specified. The sale is estimated to be worth 30 billion euros ($34 billion) at list prices, although buyers often secure discounts.

"We are honored to support the growth of China's civil aviation with our leading aircraft families," said Guillaume Faury, president of Airbus Commercial Aircraft. "Our expanding footprint in China demonstrates our lasting confidence in the Chinese market and our long-term commitment to China and our partners."



AP

French President Emmanuel Macron, right, shakes hand with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping after a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, Monday, March 25, 2019.

Other major business deals on renewable energy and the food industry were signed Monday, in addition to bilateral agreements.

Both leaders agreed on a protocol allowing the French exports of chicken meat to China. The country opened its market to French beef products following Macron's January 2018 state visit to China.

French energy company EDF and the China Energy Investment Corporation signed a deal worth 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion) to deliver two offshore wind farms in Chinese waters.

EDF chief executive Jean-Bernard Levy said the deal "consolidates EDF's foothold in China."

Macron said during his appearance alongside Xi that China and France share views on the importance of combating climate change, with green investments abroad making up part of the strategy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

11.4M sign up for Obama-era health plans this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government says 11.4 million people have signed up for coverage this year under former President Barack Obama's health law. That's just a slight dip from 2018. Despite the Trump administration's ongoing hostility to "Obamacare," a report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released on Monday found remarkably steady enrollment—down only about 300,000 consumers. Still, the number of new customers fell by more than 500,000. That's a worrisome sign for backers of the Affordable Care Act. They say the Trump administration's cuts to the ad budget and repeal of a requirement that people get insured will gradually eat away at the program. The federal health insurance market, HealthCare.gov, has lost more than 1 million customers since President Donald Trump took office. State markets are holding their own.

Tennessee moves to stop cities from banning plastic bags

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee could become the latest state to ban local municipalities from regulating certain plastic bags and utensils. House lawmakers on Monday advanced a proposal making it illegal for local governments to impose bag bans, restrictions on Styrofoam containers and other disposable products. The bill must now pass the Senate before it can head to the governor's desk for final approval. The bill is being debated in the GOP-dominant Statehouse as Memphis and Nashville—the state's most populous cities that also lean more liberal—have recently considered levying taxes against single-use plastic bags. The plastic bags industry has opposed such taxes, but state lawmakers have been more willing to pre-empt the local governments. Minority Democratic members opposed the bill, arguing the General Assembly should not bypass local government decisions. However, proponents countered that the bill is vital for businesses because it can be costly when a state has a patchwork of plastic bag policies.

House endorses bill to crack down on fake service animals

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—The Montana House on Monday endorsed a bill that would set fines for people who misrepresent their pets as service animals in order to bring them into public places such as grocery stores or restaurants. The House voted 85-15 in favor of the bill. It faces a final vote before moving to the Senate. The bill, by Republican Rep. Denley Loge, identifies service animals as dogs or miniature horses trained to do work or a task for a person with a disability. It states emotional support animals are not service animals. "I've seen a major influx in fake service dogs in the past three years," David Riggs, founder of K9 Care of Montana, told the House Judiciary Committee earlier this month, saying he blamed it on a lack of education and the ease with which people can buy a fake service dog vest online. "It's sad that people with real service dogs who have put in the time and the trouble are being discriminated against because of these fake service dogs," said Deb Killpack, who said she filed a complaint against a hotel that discriminated against her because she sought to check in with her service dog.

UK lawmakers seize Brexit agenda in bid to break deadlock

LONDON (AP)—British lawmakers seized a measure of control over the stalled Brexit process from Prime Minister Theresa May's foundering government Monday, setting up a series of votes that could dramatically alter the course of the U.K.'s departure from the European Union.

The move came after May conceded that Parliament would defeat her twice-rejected divorce deal with the EU again if she put it to a third vote.

With Brexit delayed and the new departure date up in the air, the House of Commons voted to give itself temporary control of the parliamentary timetable starting on Wednesday so lawmakers can vote on alternatives to May's withdrawal deal. The government usually controls the scheduling of votes in Parliament.

Lawmakers who backed Monday's motion, which passed 329-302, hope the planned "indicative votes" will narrow the options down to one that can secure majority support. Possible options include a "soft Brexit" that maintains close economic ties with the EU or scrapping Britain's departure altogether.

Three government ministers quit their posts so they could back the motion. Richard Harrington, who resigned as a junior business minister, accused the government of "playing roulette with the lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of people in this country" by failing to resolve Britain's Brexit impasse.

The government said it was disappointed by the vote, claiming it "upends the balance between our democratic institutions and sets a dangerous, unpredictable precedent for the future."

But it also conceded that the new votes might be a way to break the months-long Brexit gridlock. May said she would "engage constructively" with the results of the process, though she said she was skeptical that it would produce a decisive result.

The move raises the chances that Britain will tack toward a softer Brexit, and is likely to be welcomed by the EU. Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, tweet that it was an "opportunity to build a cross-party cooperation leading to an enhanced political declaration & a closer future relationship!"

Earlier in the day, May acknowledged, "with great regret," that her deal still lacked "sufficient support" to be approved as of Monday.

She said she hoped to hold a third vote on the agreement later this week and was working to build support for the deal, which sets out the terms of withdrawing from the EU and the outline of future relations with the bloc.

May warned opponents that continuing to reject the deal could lead to a "slow Brexit" that postpones the country's departure indefinitely.

With the March 29 Brexit day set almost two years ago days away and the withdrawal agreement lacking Parliament's approval, European leaders agreed to a postponement last week to avoid a chaotic cliff-edge departure that would be disruptive for the world's biggest trading bloc and deeply damaging for Britain.

However, the EU granted a shorter delay than May sought. It said if Parliament approves the proposed divorce deal, the U.K. would leave the EU on May 22. If not, the government has until April 12 to tell the 27 remaining EU countries what it plans to do - leave without a deal, cancel Brexit or chart a path to a new option.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,516.83	2,798.36	7,637.54
+14.51	−2.35	−5.13
+.057%	−.084%	−.067%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4038	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8488	Russian Ruble	63.9130
British Pound	0.7582	Indian Rupee	68.1406	Singapore Dollar	1.3498
Canadian Dollar	1.3392	Japanese Yen	110.0770	South Korean Won	1112.29
Chinese Yuan	6.5891	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0220	Swiss Franc	0.9918
Euro	0.8841	New Zealand Dollar	1.4464	Taiwan Dollar	30.2993
		Philippine Peso	51.4110	Thailand Baht	31.5785

Nation

Trump welcomes Mueller's findings, but says he's been abused

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats pressed the Justice Department to provide the full report from special counsel Robert Mueller even as Republicans gleefully called for them to "move on" from the Russia investigation. President Donald Trump accused those responsible for launching Mueller's probe of "treasonous things against our country" and said they "certainly will be looked into."

Trump said the release of Mueller's full report "wouldn't bother me at all," and Democrats quickly put that statement to the test, demanding that his administration hand over the entire document and not just Sunday's four-page summary from Attorney General William Barr.

Six House Democratic committee chairmen wrote to Barr that his summary is "not sufficient" and asked to be given Mueller's full report by April 2. They also want to begin receiving the underlying evidence the same day. The information is "urgently needed by our committees to perform their duties under the Constitution," they wrote, implying that the information would be subpoenaed if it is not turned over by the deadline.

Barr said in his letter to Congress that Mueller did not find that Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election — knocking down arguments from Democrats who have long claimed there was evidence of such collusion.

But he also said Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed the federal investigation, instead setting out "evidence on both sides" of the question and stating that "while this report does not conclude the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him." Absent a recommendation from Mueller, Barr stepped in and decided there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish that the president obstructed justice. Democrats said Barr's judgment is not the final word.

"All I'm interested in is them releasing the full report, the full Mueller report," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Despite Mueller's refusal to exonerate Trump, his spokesmen and leading congressional Republicans all claimed total vindication for the president anyway. Questioned by reporters, Trump said he welcomed Mueller's results but complained he had been abused by the investigation occurring at all and taking too long.

"We can never let this happen to another president again," he said. "There are a lot of people out there that have done some very evil things, very bad things, I would say treasonous things against our country."

"Those people will certainly be looked at. I've been looking at them for a long time. And I'm saying, why haven't they been looked at? They lied to Congress. Many of them you know who they are."

He didn't name names, but Trump has spent months railing against former Justice Department officials, including former FBI Director James Comey, accusing them of an illegal witch hunt for the purpose of delegitimizing his presidency. He has also falsely claimed that the investigation was based on memos compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele, and even blamed former Sen. John McCain, who died last year, for passing the memos to the FBI.

The investigation began months before the FBI saw the dossier — and the FBI already had a copy by the time McCain turned it in.

On Monday, after a series of evening strategy meetings, Democrats vowed to continue their multiple investigations into Trump, perhaps with shifted focus. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who has become a focus of Republicans' post-Mueller ire, said he is "circumspect about how much more we will be able to find on issues that he thoroughly investigated," but said Mueller's conclusion would not affect his own committee's counterintelligence probes.

AP

President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House in Washington, Monday, March 25, 2019.

Trump signs declaration reversing US policy on Golan Heights

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Monday recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, reversing more than a half-century of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Standing alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, Trump made formal a move he announced in a surprise tweet last week.

The president said it was time for the U.S. to take the step after 52 years of Israeli control of the strategic highlands on the border with Syria. The U.S. is the first country to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as Israeli-occupied.

Syria and neighboring Lebanon denounced the move, and at least two NATO members, Canada and Turkey, said they would not follow suit.

Trump said his decision would cement the Jewish state's ability to defend itself from regional threats should a broad Arab-Israeli peace deal ever be reached. Trump's action also likely gives Netanyahu a political boost ahead of what's expected to be a close Israeli election.

During his 90-minute visit to the White House, reporters and photographers were invited to see Netanyahu at least four times, including his arrival at the South Lawn and in the Oval Office.

Israel has long argued that the strategically important area has, for all practical purposes, been fully integrated into Israel since it was captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and that control of the strategic plateau is needed as protection from Iran and its allies in Syria.

"Today, aggressive acts by Iran and terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, in southern Syria continue to make the Golan Heights a potential launching ground for attacks on Israel," Trump said in the proclamation.

The proclamation noted the "unique circumstances" presented by the Golan, language that appeared to be aimed at countering criticism that the recognition would be used by other countries to justify control of disputed territory, such as Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

But criticism was speedy and intense.

Syria slammed the U.S. step as "blatant aggression" on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The foreign ministry said Trump's move represented the "highest level of contempt for international legitimacy" and showed that Washington was "the main enemy" of Arabs.

Lebanon, which Secretary of State Mike Pence visited over the past weekend, said that the Golan Heights is "Syrian Arab" territory and that "no country can falsify history by transferring" land from one country to another.

Even U.S. allies Canada and Turkey expressed opposition.

"In accordance with international law, Canada does not recognize permanent Israeli control over the Golan Heights. Canada's longstanding position remains unchanged," the Canadian foreign ministry said. "Annexation of territory by force is prohibited under international law."

ACROSS THE NATION

Chief: Man charged in off-duty cop's death sought a Hispanic

CHICAGO (AP)—A young Chicago off-duty police officer was gunned down in a parked car by a man who was looking for a Hispanic person to attack after a confrontation at a fast-food restaurant, the city's police chief said Monday. "I guess he settled for the first Hispanic he saw," Superintendent Eddie Johnson said. Murder charges were filed in the weekend slaying of John Rivera . The 23-year-old was repeatedly shot while sitting in a car with three friends after visiting a pizza bar early Saturday in Chicago's River North area. Another person was injured. The alleged gunman, Menelik Jackson, 24, of South Holland, was charged with murder and attempted murder, along with Jovan Battle, 32, of Chicago. Cook County Circuit Court Judge John Fitzgerald Lyke ordered the two men held without bond. "Both gentlemen pose a real and present threat to the victims, the live victims in this case, this community and every other human being on the planet that they come into contact with," the judge said.

Police: Disabled man safe after mom charged in scam attempt

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP)—Police in Georgia say a disabled man whose mother is accused of trying to scam him out of $200,000 has been found safe. Gwinnett County police tweeted 20-year-old Lee Earnest Longmire was found safe and is staying with family. Citing a police statement, news outlets report officers found him Friday but aren't saying where because they're still investigating. Police had earlier said Longmire has a mental disability, which they did not specify. His mother, 58-year-old Yvonne Longmire, was arrested this month on charges including identity theft. The Lawrenceville resident is accused of using another man to pose as her son in court to try to gain control of his trust fund. Police had been searching for her son since her arrest.

Hundreds mourn girl whose body was dumped on hiking trail

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, Calif. (AP)—Most had never met her, didn't even know her name until they saw it on the news. But moved by the tragic death of a 9-year-old girl whose body was found stuffed into a duffel bag and discarded on a hillside trail—like so much trash, as one mourner put it—people turned out by the hundreds Monday for an at-times joyous, at other times angry and frustrated interfaith service celebrating the life of Trinity Love Jones. They all but filled the pews of spacious St. John Vianney Catholic Church in the Los Angeles suburb of Hacienda Heights, just a couple of miles (3.2 kilometers) from where a park worker had found Trinity's body on March 5. She was dressed in pants with a panda pattern and a pink shirt—her favorite color—that proclaimed, "Future Princess Hero." Her mother and her mother's boyfriend have been charged with murder.

Asia

Ex-official: Duterte photographed with drug-linked Chinese

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A former senior Philippine police official said President Rodrigo Duterte, who has faced widespread criticism over his deadly drug crackdown, has been photographed with two Chinese men involved in illegal drugs and that he sent a report to warn him about the two.

Dismissed Senior Superintendent Eduardo Acierto said late Sunday that he's unaware what government action has been taken after he submitted his report about the Chinese men to top police officials starting in December 2017. Instead, Acierto said he's now facing illegal drugs complaints and has been the target of death threats that forced him to go into hiding recently.

"In my investigation, I discovered that our president ... is often accompanied by two people deeply involved in illegal drugs," Acierto, who was a veteran anti-narcotics official before he was dismissed last year by an anti-graft agency, said in a video message shown to reporters before he appeared at a news conference in Manila. "What popped into my mind at the time was maybe the president isn't aware that these are suspected drug lords."

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director General Aaron Aquino told The Associated Press that he received Acierto's report and sent it to Duterte's office, adding that both his office and that of the president took steps to validate the allegations against the two Chinese. An initial check showed that at least one of the Chinese was not facing any illegal drugs case in the country, he said.

There was a suspected drug dealer in the northern Philippines with the same name as one of the two Chinese Acierto identified in his report, but Aquino said investigators would have to check if they were the same person.

"It's wrong to say that there was no action taken because it was acted upon," Aquino said. He played down the significance of the photographs showing Duterte with the two Chinese men, saying officials often get approached by all sorts of people for group photographs without being able to rapidly check their background.

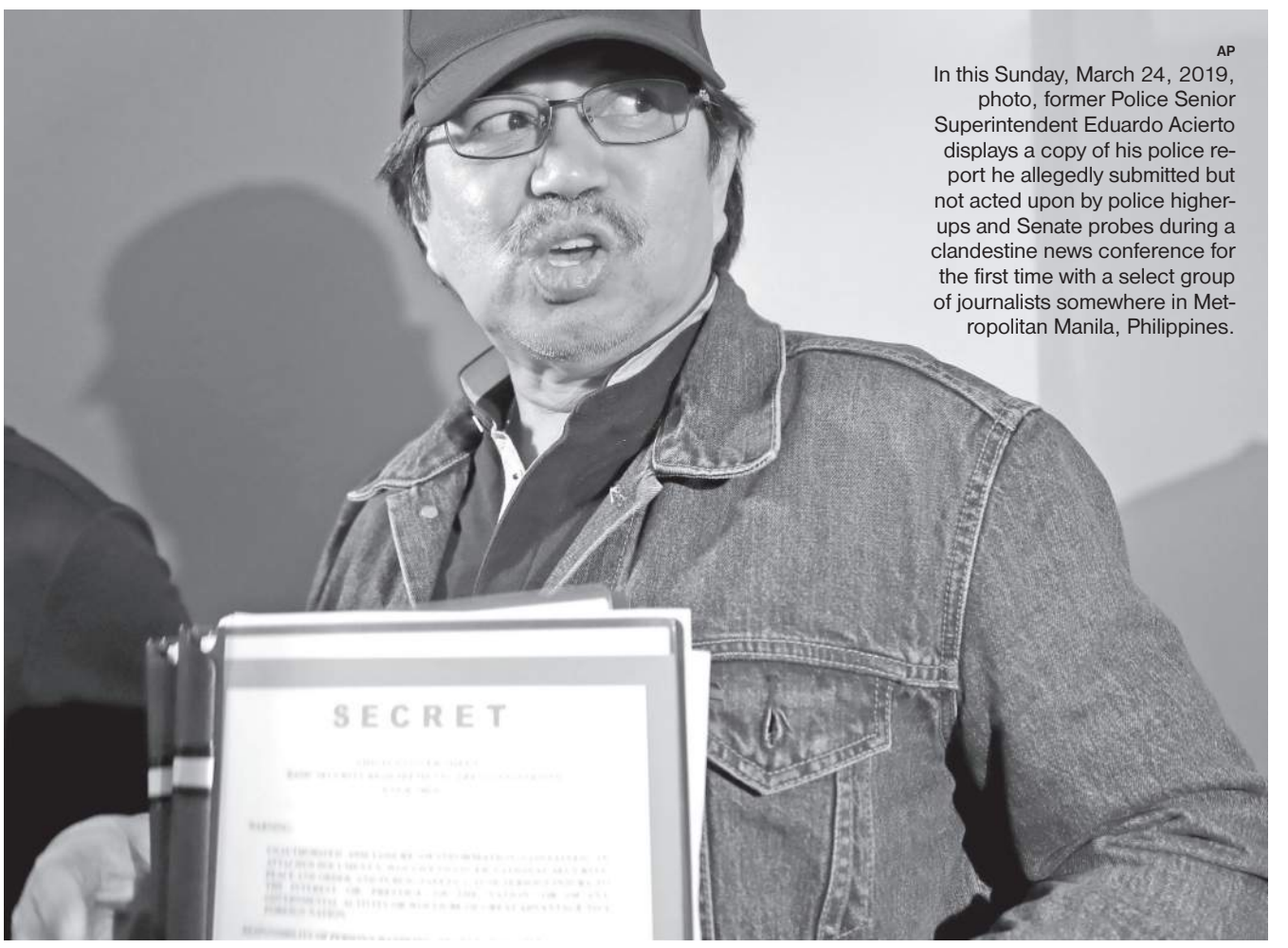
"I get to be asked for selfie shots and I wouldn't know that the one I'm being photographed with is a drug lord," Aquino said.

Aside from his alleged involvement in the irregular issuance of gun permits that led an anti-graft prosecutor to order his dismissal last year, Acierto also faces criminal complaints for his alleged role in the entry of a large amount of methamphetamine through the Bureau of Customs in Manila, Aquino said.

"In terms of credibility, it's evident that he's not credible because, first of all, he has been implicated in the smuggling of drugs," Aquino said.

Acierto's confidential report about the alleged drug links of the two Chinese contained many details, including the involvement of one of them in the establishment of a secret methamphetamine drugs manufacturing laboratory that was raided by authorities in 2004 in southern Davao city, where Duterte served as a longtime mayor before rising to the presidency in mid-2016.

Police have not said if they investigated those specific allegations or what they found out. Profiles of the two Chinese provided by Acierto to reporters said they were similarly involved in the "manufacturing, financing, the importation, transhipment and local distribution of meth or shabu," referring to the local name of the powerful stimulant.



AP
In this Sunday, March 24, 2019, photo, former Police Senior Superintendent Eduardo Acierto displays a copy of his police report he allegedly submitted but not acted upon by police higher-ups and Senate probes during a clandestine news conference for the first time with a select group of journalists somewhere in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistanis protest acquittal of 4 in India train attack

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Family members of Pakistanis killed in an Indian train explosion are protesting an Indian court's acquittal of four Hindus charged with triggering the blasts 12 years ago, which killed 68 passengers. At a rally in the eastern city of Lahore on Monday, relatives chanted: "We want justice," and called on Prime Minister Imran Khan to take the matter to the International Court of Justice. Last week, an Indian court ruled investigators had not conclusively proved that the accused were guilty. In 2007, two coaches of the Samjhauta Express, or Friendship Express, were engulfed in flames while traveling from New Delhi to Atari, the last station before the Pakistan border. Most of those killed were Pakistani citizens. Thousands of travelers use this train service each year.

Seoul says some N. Korean officials back at liaison office

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said some North Korean officials returned to an inter-Korean liaison office on Monday, three days after the North abruptly withdrew its entire staff citing unspecified instructions from "higher-level authorities." It wasn't immediately clear why North Korea sent some workers back to the office or whether it would restore a full staff. The North's decision to withdraw its staff on Friday came a week after its vice foreign minister threatened to pull out of nuclear negotiations with the United States following the collapse of a nuclear summit last month between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in Vietnam. Seoul's Unification Ministry, which deals with inter-Korean affairs, said in a statement that four to five North Korean officials showed up for work Monday at the liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and told South Korean officials they came to work their usual shifts.

Last 2 pandas at San Diego Zoo to leave for China

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Zoo is preparing to say farewell to its last two giant pandas. The zoo said Monday that 27-year-old Bai Yun (bye-yoon) and her 6-year-old son, Xaio Liwu (shyaoww-lee-woo), will depart as planned next month for China. A multiyear agreement with the Chinese is coming to an end. April 27 is the last day pandas can be viewed by the public. The departure will mark the first time in more than two decades that the zoo will be without the black-and-white bamboo-eating bears. Officials couldn't immediately say when or if pandas may inhabit the zoo again. There are still pandas at Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., Zoo Atlanta and the Memphis Zoo.

Thai parties jostle for power after 1st election since coup

BANGKOK (AP)—The two top parties began angling for the upper hand in forming a new government in Thailand on Monday after partial results showed no group won a majority of seats in the country's first national election since a 2014 military coup.

One outcome: many accusations of cheating in Sunday's vote, in efforts to discredit the other side's claim to leadership and perhaps get some winners disqualified.

The allegations highlight continuing deep divisions in Thailand, which has been wracked by political instability for nearly two decades.

The junta-appointed Election Commission announced the results of 350 constituency races but said full vote counts, which are needed to allocate 150 other seats in the House of Representatives, won't be available until Friday after apparent counting problems.

The partial results showed the military-backed Palang Pracharath party won the most popular votes nationwide. But under a complicated new electoral system put in place by the junta, the anti-military Pheu Thai party is likely to win the highest number of seats in the House.

Each party insists its advantage gives it the right to try to form a government, though neither holds a majority in terms of votes or seats. And because an unelected 250-member Senate appointed by the junta will also vote for prime minister, a party must win a combined 376 votes to assure victory.

That vote will likely take place sometime in May and give Palang Pracharath's candidate, current junta Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a considerable advantage.

The election is the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade struggle pitching conservative forces including the military, courts and ultra-royalists against the political machine of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a tycoon who upended tradition-bound Thai politics with a populist political revolution and is now despised by the military.

Thaksin now lives in exile abroad to avoid a prison term, but parties allied with him have won every election since 2001 despite repeated efforts by the military and courts to block his influence. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who led the Pheu Thai government that was ousted in 2014, also fled the country after what supporters said was a politically motivated prosecution.

While behind-the-scenes recruitment of smaller parties is the main way for Palang Pracharath or Pheu Thai to try to gain enough support to form a government, the public battle is being fought with cries of foul on social media, mostly from Pheu Thai partisans.

Although formal ties between Thaksin and Pheu Thai are now legally banned, he amplified the accusations of foul play in an op-ed in The New York Times on Monday.

His complaints included inconsistent and delayed results from the Election Commission, ballot numbers exceeding voters in some areas, turnouts twice the number of registered voters, and a suspiciously large number of voided ballots.

Thailand's main poll-watching organizations have not yet publicly addressed most of the allegations.

The watchdog group P-Net charged that the junta-appointed Election Commission was inefficient, and that it had found vote buying ahead of the voting.

World

Norway opens probe into why cruise ship ventured into storm

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Norwegian officials have opened an investigation into why a cruise ship carrying more than 1,370 people set sail along the country's often wild western coast despite storm warnings, forcing a major evacuation by helicopter.

One person is in critical but stable condition in an intensive care ward, hospital officials said, adding that eight others were still hospitalized after the weekend ordeal.

The Viking Sky had left the northern city of Tromsoe and was headed for Stavanger in southern Norway when it had engine problems and issued a mayday call on Saturday afternoon.

The ship anchored in heavy seas to avoid being dashed on the rocks in an area known for shipwrecks. Norwegian authorities then launched a daring rescue operation despite the high winds, eventually winching 479 passengers off the ship by helicopter in an operation that went on for hours Saturday night and into Sunday morning.

Dag S. Liseth of Norway's Accident Investigations Board said "the high risk which the ship, its passengers and crew were exposed to made us decide to investigate the incident."

After about half of the ship's passengers were taken off, the captain made the decision mid-day Sunday to halt the evacuation. About 900 people were still on board when the ship limped into the port city of Molde on its own engines.

Viking Ocean Cruises said Monday it had begun "an internal investigation .... to establish a complete and thorough understanding of what happened," and welcome the official investigations which they "will fully support."

In the same statement, Viking Ocean Cruises chairman Torstein Hagen also said he "would like to personally apologize for what our guests experienced."

Liseth said investigators were heading to Molde on Monday and declined to speculate why the Viking Sky captain had decided to sail to Stavanger in the first place despite the weather warning. He couldn't immediately say how long the cruise ship would remain in Molde.

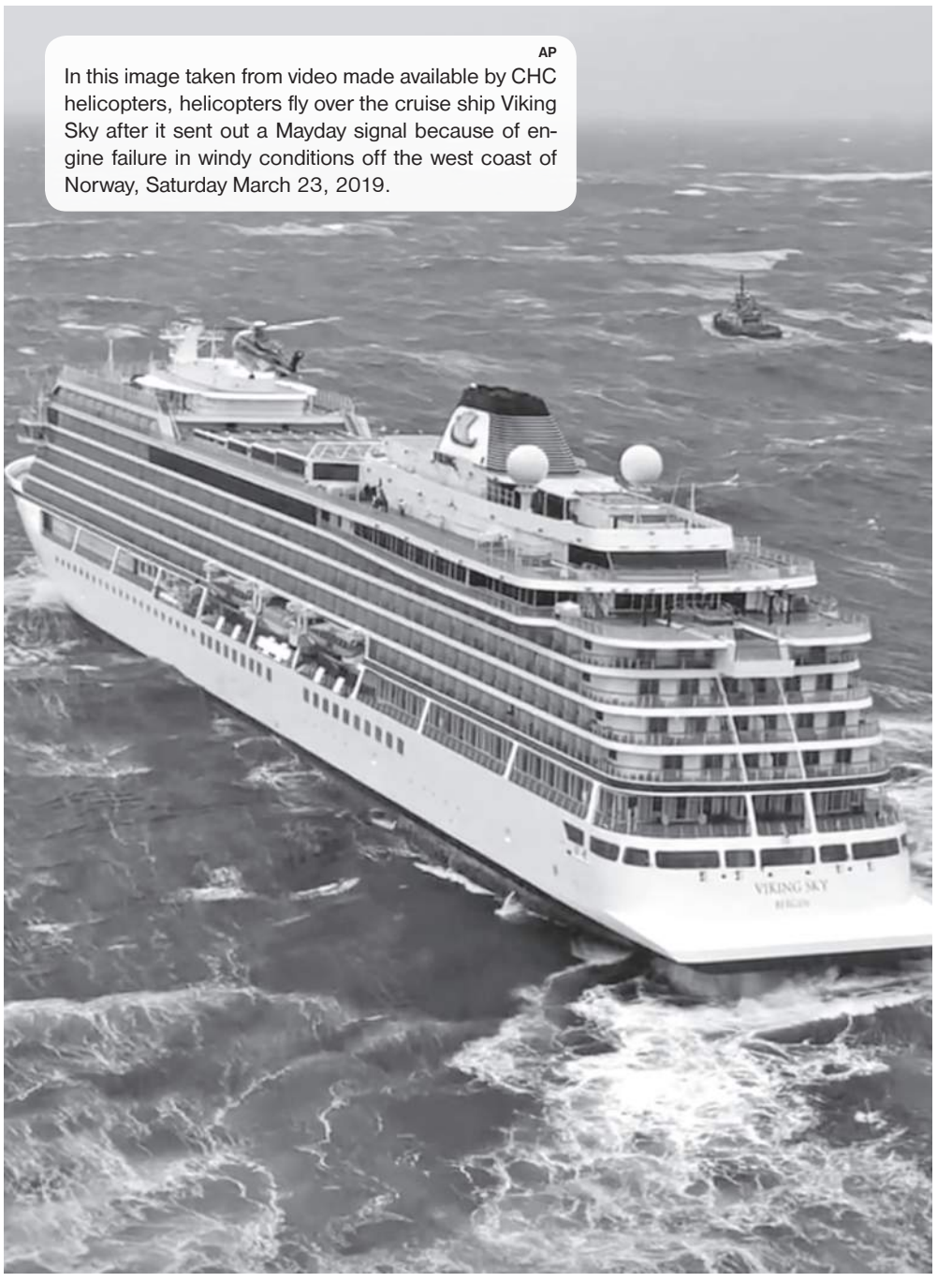
Yngve Skovly, of the police force in Moere and Romsdal district, where Molde sits, said there is no suspicion of a criminal offense but police have opened an investigation to find out why the ship had engine problems. That probe would be part of the one by the Accident Investigations Board.

The Viking Sky is a relatively new ship, delivered in 2017 to operator Viking Ocean Cruises.

The ship was on a 12-day cruise along Norway's coast before its scheduled arrival Tuesday in the British port of Tilbury, on the River Thames. The passengers were mostly an English-speaking mix of American, British, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian citizens.

All the cruise ship passengers were expected to be flown out of Norway by Monday evening, police said.

Viking Sky's next trip, to Scandinavia and Germany, which was to leave on Wednesday, has been canceled but its owner said no other trip cancellations for the ship were foreseen yet.



AP

In this image taken from video made available by CHC helicopters, helicopters fly over the cruise ship Viking Sky after it sent out a Mayday signal because of engine failure in windy conditions off the west coast of Norway, Saturday March 23, 2019.

Israel hits targets across Gaza after rocket attack

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli forces continued striking targets across the Gaza Strip through Tuesday, including the offices of Hamas' supreme leader, in response to a surprise rocket attack from the Palestinian territory, as the military bolstered its troops and rocket-defense systems in anticipation of a new round of heavy fighting with the Islamic militant group.

Israel opened public bomb shelters in most major cities and civil defense authorities canceled sports events and public transportation in southern Israel. The Israeli army said at least 30 rockets had been fired into Israel, as air raid sirens wailed across southern Israel late Monday night. The army said nearly all of the rockets were either intercepted or landed in open areas.

"Israel will not tolerate this. I will not tolerate this," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared during a White House meeting with President Donald Trump.

"Israel is responding forcefully to this wanton aggression," he said. "We will do whatever we must do to defend our people and defend our state."

Late Monday, Hamas announced that a cease-fire had been brokered by Egyptian mediators. But renewed rocket fire in Gaza and air-raid sirens in southern Israel were heard shortly after.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

The Israeli military said it had retaliated with 15 airstrikes to the latest rocket attacks, hitting military sites for Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group.

Gaza's health ministry said seven Palestinians were injured in the fresh bombings.

Ahead of the Israeli airstrikes, Hamas' leadership went into hiding.

Several airstrikes rocked Gaza on Monday, including an explosion that destroyed the office of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. The Israeli military confirmed the bombing, saying the building had "served as an office for many military meetings." An earlier blast destroyed a multistory building in Gaza City that Israel said had served as a Hamas military intelligence headquarters.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. In both blasts, Israel fired warning shots to evacuate the buildings. But the airstrike on the multistory building was so powerful it sent debris flying onto the roof of The Associated Press bureau, located on the 11th floor of a nearby high-rise.

The sudden conflagration came at a time when both Netanyahu and his Hamas foes are in desperate situations.

Netanyahu is in a tight race for re-election, and just two weeks before the April 9 vote, faces tough criticism from challengers who accuse him of being too soft on Hamas.

In Washington to celebrate the U.S. recognition of Israel's control of the Golan Heights, Netanyahu instead was forced to cut short his trip under heavy pressure to strike back at Hamas. Later Monday, Netanyahu remained in Washington past his scheduled departure time, huddled in conference calls with security officials, Israeli media said.

Haniyeh issued a statement warning Israel against heavy retaliation. He said the Palestinian people "will not surrender" and its militant factions "will deter the enemy if it exceeds the red lines."

'It will get worse': Perilous times for kids hit by cyclone

BEIRA, Mozambique (AP)—Her name is Chuva, which in Portuguese means rain. For four days that was all she saw as she clung to her rooftop in the cyclone's aftermath and prayed to be saved.

Maria Chuva clasped her 5-year-old daughter, Amiel, to her tightly as she recounted the panic of opening her front door to water that came up to her neck, and scrambling with her family to the roof.

Now, after elbowing her way onto a rescue boat for a bewildering journey with her two girls to the inundated port city of Beira, she paused in the din of a displacement camp to reflect on losing everything but her children—and the splintered families now around her. The orphans are especially hard for her to bear.

"It hurts me so bad," she said.

An estimated 900,000 children have been orphaned or separated from their families, made homeless or otherwise affected by Cyclone Idai, half of the 1.8 million people impacted overall, according to Mozambican government figures.

The children crowd displacement camps, sleeping rough on plastic tarps on bare brick floors, or on the wooden benches of crowded schools.

They slide down wooden bannisters, teeter on rain-slickened tile stairs near open cooking fires on the concrete floor. They play checkers with bottle caps. They squat around a metal pot as big as themselves, scraping its sides with their bare hands for the last remaining kernels of rice.

No one yet knows how many are orphaned, just as no one knows how many people in the cyclone-hit countries of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi are dead or missing.

Families were separated in the chaos. Many children lost a mother or father, or both.

"We have quite a few orphans," Henrietta Fore, executive director of the U.N. organization for children, UNICEF, told a press conference at U.N. headquarters in New York on Monday. "We have calls out to their families. When they don't respond for two or three days we have to fear the worst. So it is a very difficult situation for them."

Initial assessments in Beira indicate that more than 2,600 classrooms have been destroyed and 39 health centers impacted. At least 11,000 houses have been totally destroyed. "This will have serious consequences on children's education, access to health services, and mental well-being," Fore said after her visit to Beira.

"The situation will get worse before it gets better," Fore added, warning of diseases like cholera, malaria and diarrhea "which can turn this disaster into a major catastrophe."

In a bare gymnasium in the Samora Machel secondary school in Beira, at least 12 children are orphans, said Juta Joao Sithole, who represents the nearly 350 people from the town of Buzi who shelter there.

Focus

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2019 photo, a group of seniors from Laguna Woods Village check in at Bud and Bloom cannabis dispensary in Santa Ana, Calif. More Americans in their 70s and 80s are adding marijuana use to their roster of senior activities. Recent studies show that people 65 and over are the fastest-growing segment of cannabis users.

More aging Americans are using pot to soothe what ails them

By JOHN ROGERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAGUNA WOODS, Calif. (AP)—The group of white-haired folks — some pushing walkers, others using canes — arrive right on time at the gates of Laguna Woods Village, an upscale retirement community in the picturesque hills that frame this Southern California suburb a few miles from Disneyland.

There they board a bus for a quick trip to a building that, save for the green Red Cross-style sign in the window, resembles a trendy coffee bar. The people, mostly in their 70s and 80s, pass the next several hours enjoying a light lunch, playing a few games of bingo and selecting their next month's supply of cannabis-infused products.

"It's like the ultimate senior experience," laughs 76-year-old retired beauty products distributor Ron Atkin as he sits down to watch the bingo at the back of the Bud and Bloom marijuana dispensary in Santa Ana.

Most states now have legal medical marijuana, and 10 of them, including California, allow anyone 21 or older to use pot recreationally. The federal government still outlaws the drug even as acceptance increases. The 2018 General Social Survey, an annual sampling of Americans' views, found a record 61 percent back legalization, and those 65 and older are increasingly supportive.

Indeed, many industry officials say the fastest-growing segment of their customer base is people like Atkin — aging baby boomers or even those a little older who are seeking to treat the aches and sleeplessness and other maladies of old age with the same herb that many of them once passed around at parties.

"I would say the average age of our customers is around 60, maybe even a little older," said Kelty Richardson, a registered nurse with the Halos Health clinic in Boulder, Colorado, which provides medical examinations and sells physician-recommended cannabis through its online store.

Its medical director, Dr. Joseph Cohen, conducts "Cannabis 101" seminars at the nearby Balfour Senior Living community for residents who want to know which strains are best for easing arthritic pain or improving sleep.

Relatively little scientific study has verified the benefits of marijuana for specific problems. There's evidence pot can relieve chronic pain in adults, according to a 2017 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, but the study also concluded that the lack of scientific information poses a risk to public health.

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2019 photo, Sandy Sopher, 65, smells cannabis buds at Bud and Bloom cannabis dispensary in Santa Ana, Calif. As legal cannabis has spread to dozens of states, more Americans in their 70s and 80s are adding marijuana to the roster of senior activities such as golf and bingo.

At Bud and Bloom, winners of the bingo games take home new vape pens, but Atkin isn't really there for that. He's been coming regularly for two years to buy cannabis-infused chocolate bars and sublingual drops to treat his painful spinal stenosis since the prescription opiates he had been taking quit working.

It was "desperation" that brought him here, he said, adding that his doctors didn't suggest he try medical marijuana. But they didn't discourage him either.

The dispensary is filled with the 50 people from the bus as they peruse counters and coolers containing everything from gel caps to drops to cannabis-infused drinks, not to mention plenty of old-fashioned weed.

Adele Frascella, leaning on her cane, purchases a package of gummy candies she says helps keep her arthritic pain at bay.

"I don't like to take an opioid," said Frascella, 70.

Fashionably dressed with sparkling silver earrings, Frascella confirms with a smile that she was a pot smoker in her younger days.

"I used to do it when I was like 18, 19, 20," she said. "And then I had a baby, got married and stopped."

She took it up again a few years ago, even investing in a "volcano," a pricey, high-tech version of the old-fashioned bong that Gizmodo calls "the ultimate stoner gadget." But these days, like many other seniors, she prefers edibles to smoking.

Renee Lee, another baby boomer who smoked as a youth, got back into it more than a dozen years ago after the clinical psychologist underwent brain surgery and other medical procedures that she said had her taking "10 meds a day, four times a day."

"And I wasn't getting any better," she said, adding that she asked her doctors if she might try medical marijuana as a last resort. They said go ahead and she found it ended her pain.

In 2012 she founded the Rossmoor Medical Marijuana Club in her upscale San Francisco Bay Area retirement community.

"We started with 20 people, and we kept it really quiet for about a year and a half," she said, noting that although California legalized medical cannabis in 1996, it was still seen in some quarters as an outlaw drug.

Her group has since grown to more than 1,000 members and puts on regular events, including lectures by pro-cannabis doctors and nurses.

People Lee's age — 65 and over — are the fastest-growing segment of the marijuana-using population, said Dr. Gary Small, professor of psychiatry and aging at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He believes more studies on the drug's effects on older people are needed. And while it may improve quality of life by relieving pain, anxiety and other problems, he said, careless, unsupervised use can cause trouble.

"We know that cannabis can cause side effects, particularly in older people," he said. "They can get dizzy. It can even impair memory if the dose is too high or new ingredients are wrong. And dizziness can lead to falls, which can be quite serious."

Richardson said Colorado saw an uptick in hospital visits by older users soon after the state legalized cannabis in 2012. The problem, he said, was often caused by novices downing too many edibles.

That's a lesson Dick Watts, 75, learned the hard way. The retired New Jersey roofing contractor who keeps a winter home at Laguna Woods Village began having trouble sleeping through the night as he got into his 70s. He attended a seniors' seminar where he learned marijuana might help, so he got a cannabis-infused candy bar. He immediately ate the whole thing.

"Man, that was nearly lethal," recalled Watts, laughing.

Now when he has trouble sleeping he takes just a small sliver of candy before bed. He said he wakes up clear-headed and refreshed.

"And I have it up on a shelf so my grandkids can't get to it," Watts said.

Good Housekeeping

Monarch butterflies are seen mating while feeding on the bog sage, Salvia uliginosa.

ON GARDENING

2019 the year of the salvia equates to the year of the hummingbird

The cherry sage is native to Texas and New Mexico but is easy to grow, blooming all summer and feeding hummingbirds.

he Amistad salvia with black calyx and royal purple blooms is a champion for hummingbirds.

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The National Garden Bureau has proclaimed 2019 as The Year of the Salvia. I would be the first to proclaim a hearty AMEN! Then I started thinking that for The Garden Guy every year is the year of the salvia. Then I went into despair thinking what if I had a year without salvia? It would be like the old "Hee Haw" TV show song, "Gloom Despair and Agony on Me, Deep Dark Depression Excessive Misery."

That's it, in a nutshell, I simply could not live without perennial salvias. They create instant excitement in the garden because of their spiky texture adding a vertical element no other plant can match. The Garden Guy craves blue in all shades, so salvia like Indigo Spires, Mystic Spires Blue, and last year's Mysty Blue salvia will all be in my garden. I am looking forward to this year's hit Big Blue.

Though I have no bog you can expect to find the bog sage salvia uliginosa in my garden reaching 4-feet tall, spreading and offering sky blue flowers that are among the rarest colors in the garden. Salvias are the hummingbird magnets in the garden and while they frequently visit the salvias mentioned above nothing quite compares to the anise sage or salvia guaranitica varieties and hybrids.

Black & Blue, Black & Bloom, and Amistad salvia are where hummingbirds come to feast in ecstasy and seem to stay until cold weather moves them to the tropics. These are large salvias, 4- to 5-feet tall with a clump almost as wide. The flower's black calyces partnered with cobalt blue blooms or royal purple as in the Amistad are mesmerizing.

This Eastern Tiger swallowtail finds the Mysty Blue salvia to be just right.

After almost 40 years of growing salvias, it is most rare to watch them for even a couple of minutes without seeing a variety of pollinators. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and those rarities like the scarlet-bodied wasp moth can be found visiting. You'll be surprised what you find each and every day, but only if you grow salvias.

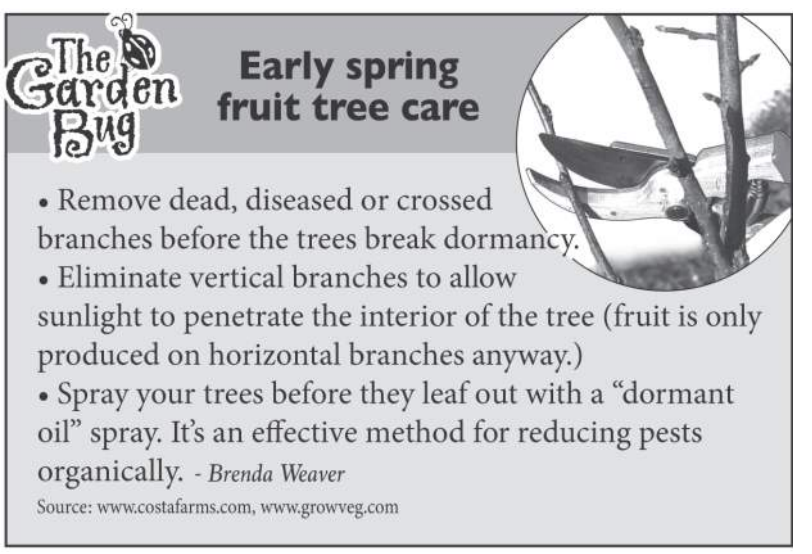
Those I've mentioned thus far are imports but the United States is home to some incredible salvias like the mealy cup sage or Salvia farinacea. To see a wild stand of these blue flowered spikes will long be remembered. You'll find deep blue, gray and white selections at your garden center. Varieties like Victoria Blue and Rhea have been award winners and Cathedral Deep Blue is as worthy as it is among the most dazzling.

This bee finds the Mysty Blue salvia just perfect.

The scarlet sage, Salvia coccinea, is native to the lower southern states and a couple up north as well. As the name suggests it is a glorious saturated red. You'll find these in multicolors and bi-colors at the garden center. Then the cherry sage or Autumn sage, Salvia greggii, is native to Texas and blooms non-stop from late spring until frost. It, too, is a deep red with other colors now available.

The National Garden Bureau chose to give special consideration to the meadow sage or Salvia nemerosa. May Night a hybrid was the Perennial Plant of the Year in 1997. It is indeed beautiful and hardy in zones 4-8. As a whole, this species seems to perform best in zones 7 and further north. Those I referenced above are perennial in zones 7, 8, and warmer and most worthy to be grown as annuals.

Sunlight and organic-rich well-drained soil will give you the green thumb when it comes to growing salvias. Wet soggy winter soil is the nemesis to those of us that treasure these flowers. Thankfully they are not on the deer menu. Do like the National Garden Bureau suggests and celebrate 2019 The Year of the Salvia by planting them in your landscape. You'll find that 2019 will also be The Year of the Hummingbird no matter where you live.


The Garden Bug
Early spring fruit tree care
• Remove dead, diseased or crossed branches before the trees break dormancy.
• Eliminate vertical branches to allow sunlight to penetrate the interior of the tree (fruit is only produced on horizontal branches anyway.)
• Spray your trees before they leaf out with a "dormant oil" spray. It's an effective method for reducing pests organically. - Brenda Weaver
Source: www.costafarms.com, www.growveg.com

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Life & Style

Avenatti charged with trying to extort millions from Nike

By BRIAN MELLEY and LARRY NEUMEISTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Avenatti, the pugnacious attorney best known for representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits against President Donald Trump, was arrested Monday on charges that included trying to shake down Nike for as much as $25 million by threatening the company with bad publicity.

Avenatti, who was also accused of embezzling a client's money to pay his own expenses, was charged with extortion and bank and wire fraud in separate cases in New York and California. He was arrested at a New York law firm where he had gone to meet with Nike executives. It was just minutes after he tweeted that he planned to hold a news conference Tuesday to "disclose a major high school/college basketball scandal perpetrated by @Nike that we have uncovered."

"When lawyers use their law licenses as weapons, as a guise to extort payments for themselves, they are no longer acting as attorneys. They are acting as criminals," said Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. attorney in New York.

California investigators had been building a case against Avenatti for more than a year, but prosecutors in New York said their investigation began only last week and was completed in days.

In the California case, Avenatti allegedly misused a client's money to pay his debts and those of his coffee business and law firm. Federal prosecutors said he also defrauded a Mississippi bank by using phony tax returns to obtain millions of dollars in loans.

Avenatti

The allegations "paint an ugly picture of lawless conduct and greed," said Nick Hanna, the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. Avenatti describes himself on Twitter as an attorney and advocate, but the accusations describe "a corrupt lawyer who instead fights for his own selfish interests."

Avenatti appeared briefly in court Monday evening in New York and was ordered released on $300,000 bond. He did not enter a plea. Emerging from the courthouse, he thanked the federal agents who arrested him for being courteous and professional.

"As all of you know, for the entirety of my career I have fought against the powerful. Powerful people and powerful corporations. I will never stop fighting that good fight," he said. "I am highly confident that when all the evidence is laid bare in connection with these cases, when it is all known, when due process occurs, that I will be fully exonerated and justice will be done."

The arrest was a sharp reversal of fortune for the 48-year-old lawyer, who, less than a year ago, emerged as a leading figure in the anti-Trump movement, with relentless cable news appearances, a hard-punching style and a knack for obtaining information about others' wrongdoing. At one point, he even flirted with a presidential run.

Donald Trump Jr. gloated over the arrest on Twitter.

Geragos is named in extortion case

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Attorney Mark Geragos has had a long career representing high-profile clients including Michael Jackson, Colin Kaepernick and Jussie Smollett. Now Geragos might need a defense attorney himself after being named in a case accusing lawyer Michael Avenatti of trying to extort Nike.

Geragos is not charged with a crime but two people familiar with the investigation confirmed Monday that he is the unidentified co-conspirator in court papers charging Avenatti with attempting to shake down Nike for $25 million by threatening the company with bad publicity. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the information was not made public by prosecutors.

Geragos

Geragos, 61, didn't respond to requests for comment.

For decades the media savvy attorney has defended headline-grabbing cases involving troubled Hollywood stars like Winona Ryder and Chris Brown and wife killer Scott Peterson.

A longtime CNN contributor, Geragos appeared on the network this month to discuss the case against his client Jussie Smollett, the "Empire" actor accused of fabricating a racist, anti-gay attack in Chicago. Within hours of the extortion case breaking, CNN cut ties with him.

"He is in many ways the face of the legal profession because of his years on CNN," said Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where Geragos earned his law degree. "For people who are in the know in Los Angeles, they can name a couple of lawyers, and he is one of them."

Levinson said she was surprised by Geragos' connection to the extortion case. He has a solid reputation in the profession and no history of misconduct, she said.

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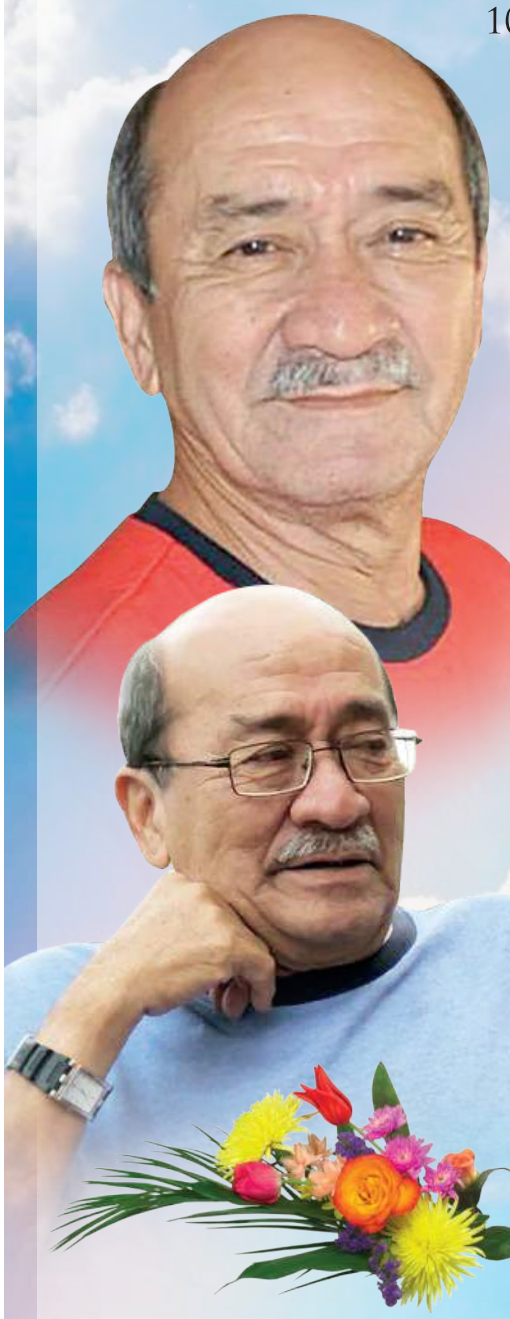
DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Jesus "Chu" Deleon Guerrero Takai

10.23.1947 - 03.24.2019



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Antonio Duenas Takai
†Soledad Deleon Guerrero Takai
†Juana Naputi Takai

Sister: †Maria Deleon Guerrero Takai

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Stepmother: **Tomoe K. Takai**
Wife: **Caroline Domingo Takai**
Children: **Alvin Mathew Sablan** & Anita A. Sablan (Mathew)
Kimberly Nicole Manglona & Walter A. Manglona (Aiyana, Tristan, Melody, Conor)
Jenise Aera Takai & Geoff Bowman (Sebastian & Oliver)
Sollyann Marie Takai & Jhaneeka Atalig
Jessica Takai & Michael Kohn (Lucas Makoto)
Jason Paolo Takai
Kassie Lynn Takai

Sisters and in-laws: Margarita T. Prater & Children
Maria T. Eger & Children
Soledad T. Lagason & Wilfredo Lagason and Children
Benedicta T. Nolan & †Mark Nolan and daughter

Brothers in-law: Froilan E. Domingo & Erlinda Domingo and Children
Frances E. Domingo & Emelisa L. Domingo and son

He is also survived by numerous uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Daily mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Parish followed by rosary 6pm from Monday, March 25, 2019 to Saturday, March 30, 2019 and 8am mass followed by rosary at 6pm on Sunday, March 31, 2019. On April 1, 2019, Jesus will then be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial is at 10:00am followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

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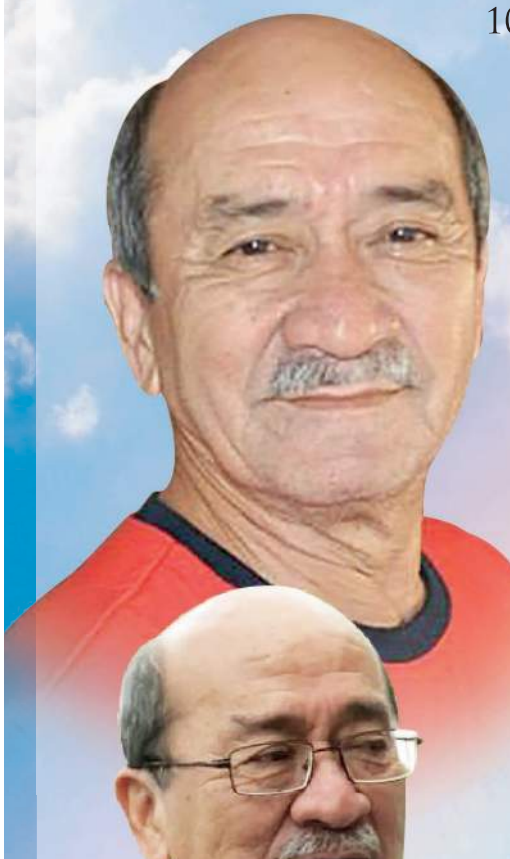

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Antonio Duenas Takai
†Soledad Deleon Guerrero Takai
†Juana Naputi Takai

Sister: †Maria Deleon Guerrero Takai

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Stepmother: **Tomoe K. Takai**
Wife: **Caroline Domingo Takai**
Children: **Alvin Mathew Sablan** & Anita A. Sablan (Mathew)
Kimberly Nicole Manglona & Walter A. Manglona (Aiyana, Tristan, Melody, Conor)
Jenise Aera Takai & Geoff Bowman (Sebastian & Oliver)
Sollyann Marie Takai & Jhaneeka Atalig
Jessica Takai & Michael Kohn (Lucas Makoto)
Jason Paolo Takai
Kassie Lynn Takai

Sisters and in-laws: Margarita T. Prater & Children
Maria T. Eger & Children
Soledad T. Lagason & Wilfredo Lagason and Children
Benedicta T. Nolan & †Mark Nolan and daughter

Brothers in-law: Froilan E. Domingo & Erlinda Domingo and Children
Frances E. Domingo & Emelisa L. Domingo and son

He is also survived by numerous uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Daily mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Parish followed by rosary 6pm from Monday, March 25, 2019 to Saturday, March 30, 2019 and 8am mass followed by rosary at 6pm on Sunday, March 31, 2019. On April 1, 2019, Jesus will then be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial is at 10:00am followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ginen I Familia

Apple belatedly jumps into the streaming TV business

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and TALI ARBEL
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITERS

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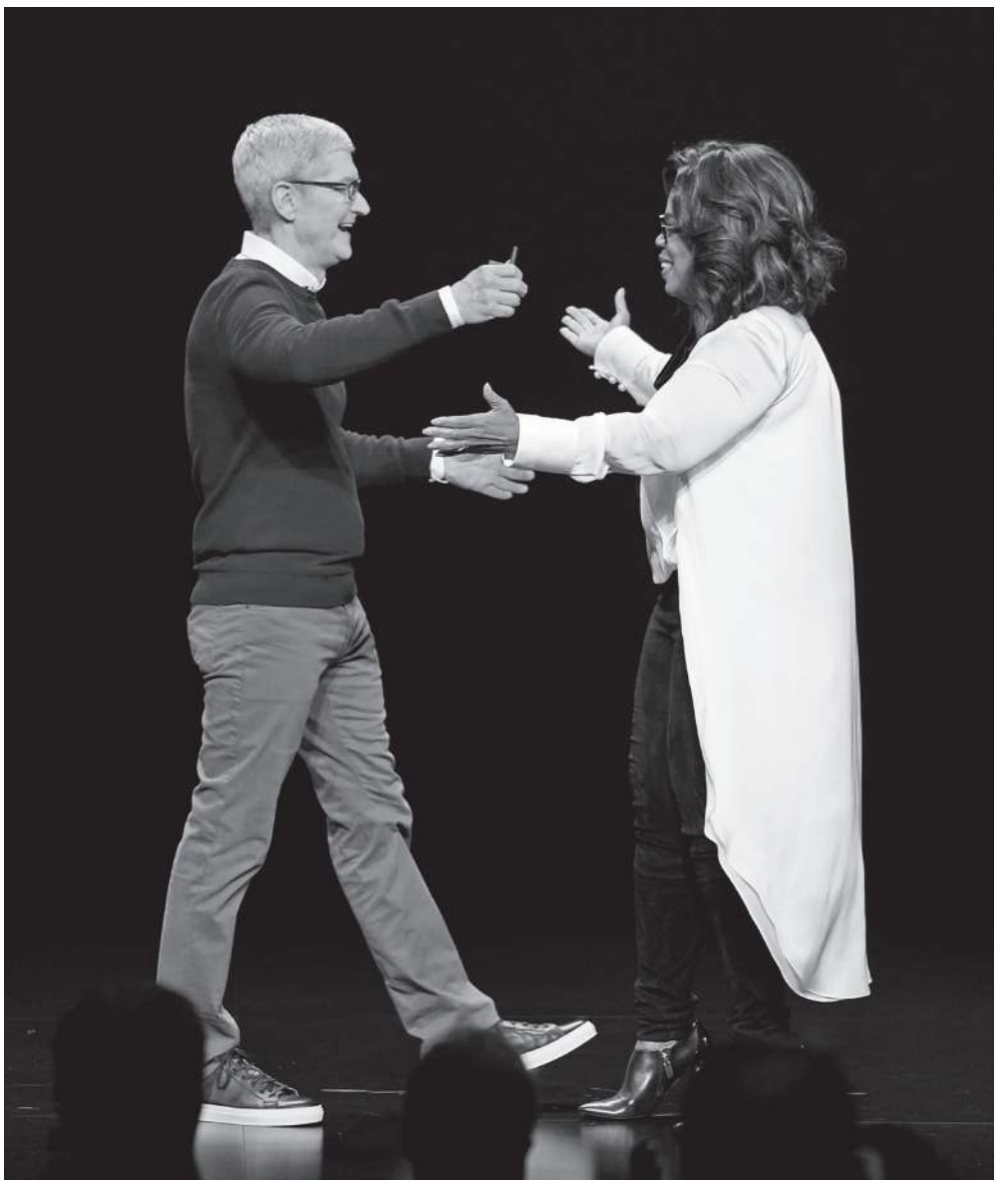
In the past, of course, Apple has mostly jumped into relatively small and undeveloped markets. Streaming video, by contrast, is dominated by huge services like Netflix, Amazon and Hulu, with more seeming to be bowing into the competition daily, including AT&T's WarnerMedia, Disney and Comcast.



Apple CEO Tim Cook and Oprah Winfrey prepare to embrace at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new products Monday, March 25, 2019, in Cupertino, Calif. AP

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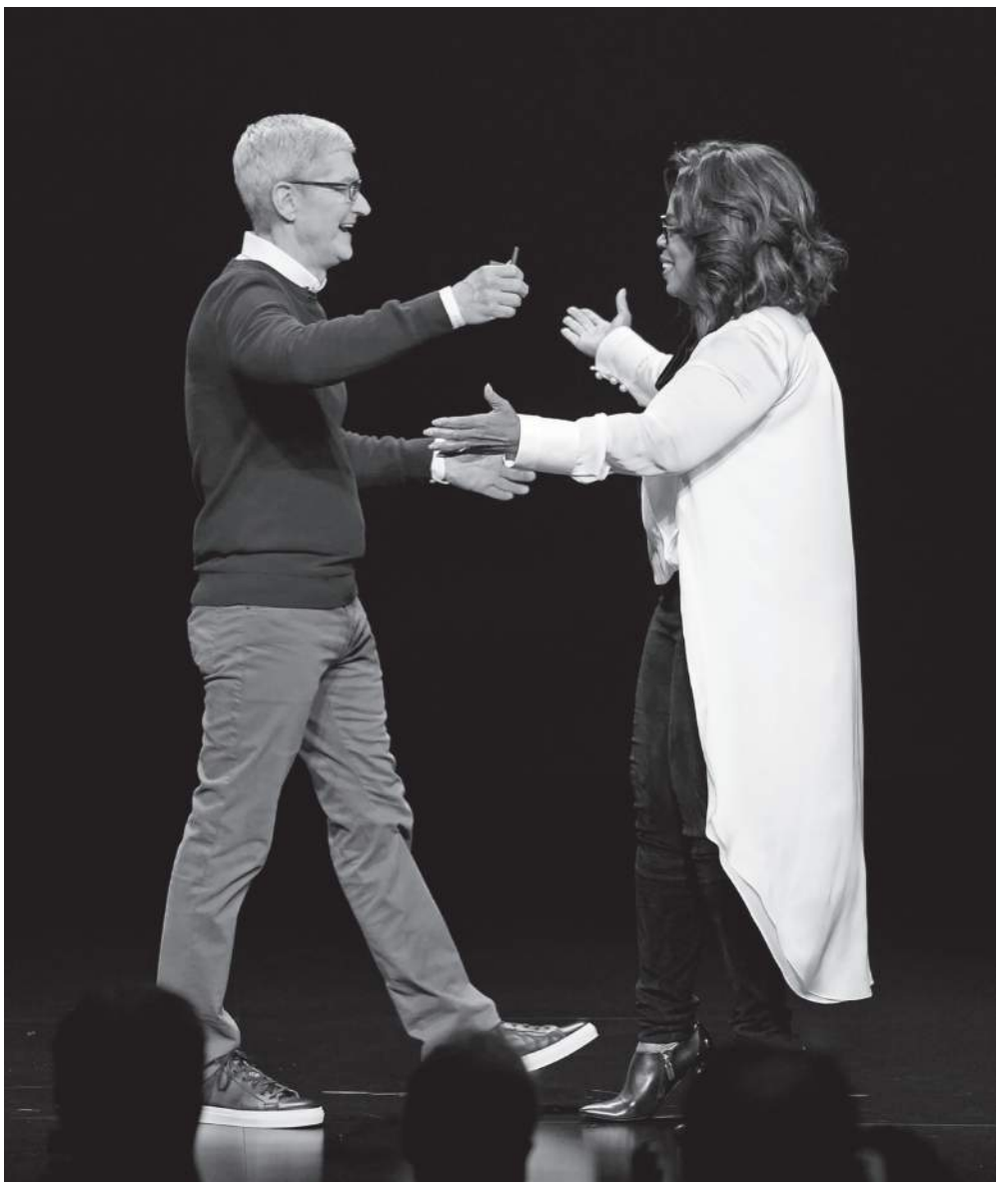

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Alanis Morissette announces pregnancy in Instagram photo

Alanis Morissette is pregnant with her third child.

The Grammy-winning singer posted a black-and-white photo of herself Monday to her Instagram account, revealing her round belly while also singing with headphones covering her ears.

Morissette

Morissette captioned the photo with, "so much NEWness." Her representative confirmed the pregnancy to The Associated Press.

The 44-year-old Canadian singer has two kids: her son Ever Imre is 8 and her daughter Onyx Solace turns 3 in June.

Her hits include "Ironic," ''You Oughta Know," ''Thank U" and "Hands Clean." ***(AP)***

Hugh Jackman 'very excited' to be heading back to Broadway

AP

Actor Hugh Jackman speaks during the US dollars 1 million Global Teacher Prize presentation in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 24, 2019.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Hugh Jackman says he's looking forward to coming back to Broadway next year as a classic roguish traveling salesman in a play he first performed in as a teenager.

"I'm very, very excited about doing 'The Music Man'," he told The Associated Press.

The two-time Tony winner said he first performed the show in high school, and that it was the first musical he ever acted in.

"It's amazing I'm going back to it," he said.

As con man Harold Hill, Jackman will sing such favorites as "Ya Got Trouble," ''Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Gary, Indiana."

Jackman was speaking with the AP on Sunday at the Global Teacher Prize award ceremony in Dubai, where he announced the winner and performed musical numbers from his 2017 film "The Greatest Showman."

Actor Michael Madsen accused of driving under the influence

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Police have arrested actor Michael Madsen after they say he was stopped while driving under the influence.

Madsen

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says Madsen was driving a Land Rover, which struck a pole in Malibu, California, around 8 p.m. Sunday. The 61-year-old, who has been featured in such Quentin Tarantino movies as "Reservoir Dogs" and "Kill Bill," was not injured.

Officers questioned Madsen and he was placed under arrest. His blood-alcohol level was not immediately available. He was released from jail Monday morning.

His publicist has not responded to an email seeking comment.

Prince Charles, Camilla tour Old Havana on royal visit

HAVANA (AP)—Prince Charles and his wife Camilla began their first full day in Cuba Monday with a visit to Old Havana, touring churches, shops and cafes in the narrow cobblestoned streets of the historic center before other events around the capital city.

The heir to the British throne arrived in Cuba Sunday with an agenda including visits to historic sites, a solar park, organic farm, bio-medical research center, a meeting with entrepreneurs, a cultural gala and a dinner with President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

The agenda does not include visits with political dissidents or other critics of Cuba's single-party system, a decision prompting criticism from Cuban exiles.

The Trump Administration has found European and Latin American support for its Venezuela policy but less backing on Cuba, whose government has already withstood a 60-year U.S. embargo without showing any signs of losing its grip on power.

The United Kingdom backs Trump in Venezuela but is eager to expand relations with the island nation, and arranged for Prince Charles to extend his Caribbean tour to Cuba to shore up relations between the two nations.

The royals stopped in at Bohemia, a cafe facing the historic center's iconic Plaza Vieja.

"It's the first time in real life that we receive a real prince at the Cafe Bohemia, although at the Cafe Bohemia all customers are princes," manager Annalisa Gallina said. "It has been a very big emotion, with several days of preparations, from learning how to greet him to learning what he wants to drink or what tea he prefers."

Charles and his Camila also visited the studio of famed former Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta, 45. After greeting the dancers, the royal couple watched a performance blending classical, modern and traditional Cuban dance.

The Cuban choreographer spent most of his career in the United Kingdom. Acosta, who retired from the Royal Ballet in 2015, has been appointed to head the Royal Ballet of Birmingham, a position he will assume in 2020.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tom Clancy's widow expands challenge of rights ownership

BALTIMORE (AP) — Tom Clancy's widow says in a lawsuit that his estate is the exclusive owner not just of the novelist's famous character Jack Ryan, but the rights to the character John Clark and several books. Alexandra Clancy has expanded her original 2017 lawsuit against the personal representative of Clancy's estate for allowing other entities to profit from posthumous book revenues. Those profits and profits involving other characters have been divided between the estate and companies that were owned by Tom Clancy, his ex-wife and children. Citing an amended complaint unsealed last week, The Daily Record reports Alexandra Clancy says the estate should be sole owner because Tom Clancy himself owned the rights. The defendants claim interests, saying those properties were represented as "works made for hire" for tax and liability reasons.

Leah Naomi Green wins Walt Whitman Award for debut poet

NEW YORK (AP) — A debut poet from Greensboro, North Carolina, has received a prize named for one of the country's greatest writers. Leah Naomi Green won the Walt Whitman Award, the Academy of American Poets announced Monday. The award is given to emerging poets and comes with a $5,000 cash prize and a six-week, all-expenses-paid residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy. Graywolf Press will publish her first book, "More Extravagant Feast," in April 2020. The academy will purchase thousands of copies and distribute them to members. Green teaches at Washington and Lee University and her work has been published in Tin House and the Southern Review. Previous winners of the Whitman award, established in 1975, include Jenny Xie and Alberto Rios.

Husband fathers a child during couple's separation

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I separated last year and reconciled several months later. When we decided to get back together, he broke it off with his girlfriend. A month later she contacted him to inform him that she's pregnant with his child. She's due in a few months.

My husband and I disagree about how things should be handled when the child arrives. She says I'm not allowed to come to the hospital with him and meet the baby. I say that going without me is absurd, and any child that belongs to my husband is a part of my life, too. However, he says she is in charge of the situation. I'm worried that when the baby is born I'll be at home alone with a broken heart. Where should I draw the line with my husband?

WORRIED WIFE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WORRIED WIFE: Forgive me if this seems cynical, but is your husband ABSOLUTELY SURE that the baby is his? And, if it is, to what extent does he plan to be involved in the child's life? If he participates in raising him/her, then you are right, his child WILL become a part of your life. If he decides to do no more than write support checks, the impact on you will be much less.

Frankly, I don't blame you for feeling worried. If a paternity test hasn't proved he's the father of the baby, he should discuss this with a lawyer to insist there be one.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 19, I lost custody of my three children to the state. They were adopted out, and I have had no contact since. Over the years I tried to find them without success. Recently, I found their names and addresses using ancestry.com to search their birth records. My son, the oldest, is 18 now, but his sisters are only 15 and 16.

I want to write a letter to the adoptive mother, let her know my side of the story and offer to open a line of communication for her and the kids. Would that be selfish? What's the right thing to do here?

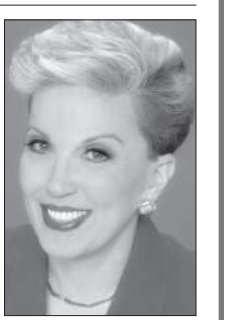
I was very young and stupid when I lost my children. I'm now in my 30s and much wiser. I have lived with this heartbreak for 15 years. I don't want to disrupt their lives, but I do want them to have my contact information if they would like to have it. I know this situation is delicate. I desperately want to avoid doing the wrong thing. Please advise.

HEARTBROKEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your instincts are on target. The best way to accomplish what you have in mind would be to write to the adoptive mother and allow her to decide what to do with the information you give her. Most adopted children at some point want to know who their birth parents were, if only so they can get a complete medical history.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



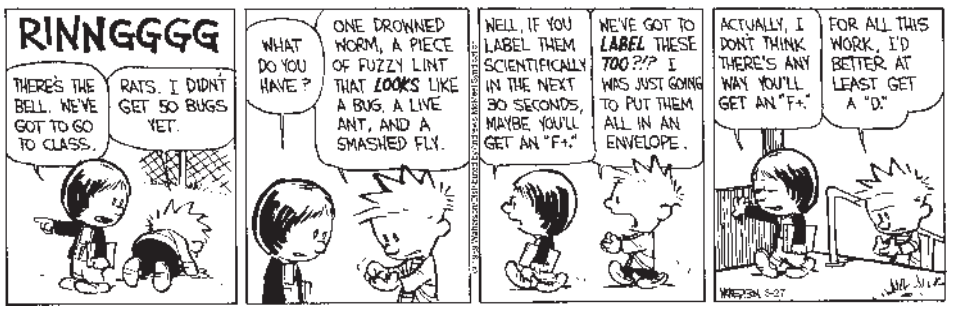
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


RINNGGGG
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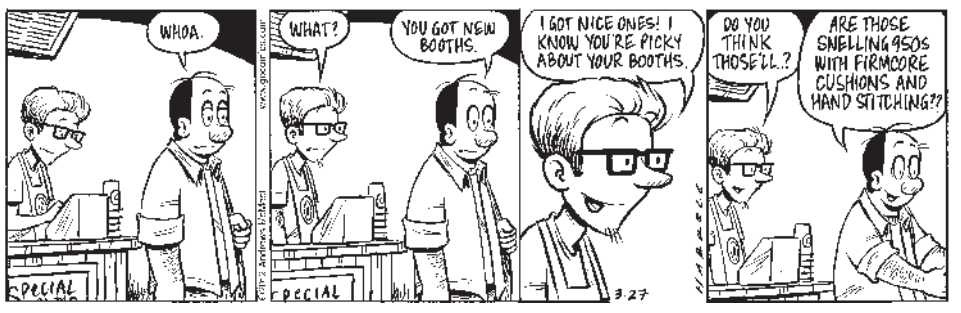
RATS. I DIDN'T GET 50 BUGS YET.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
ONE DROWNED WORM, A PIECE OF FUZZY LINT THAT LOOKS LIKE A BUG, A LIVE ANT, AND A SMASHED FLY.
WELL, IF YOU LABEL THEM SCIENTIFICALLY IN THE NEXT 30 SECONDS, MAYBE YOU'LL GET AN "F+."
WE'VE GOT TO LABEL THESE TOO?!? I WAS JUST GOING TO PUT THEM ALL IN AN ENVELOPE.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WAY YOU'LL GET AN "F+."
FOR ALL THIS WORK, I'D BETTER AT LEAST GET A "D."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M WORKING ON MY MEMOIR.
IT'S THE CHAPTER ABOUT MY CONTRIBUTION TO MY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM.
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"FROM TOWEL WASHER TO TOWEL BOY. MY CLIMB UP THE LADDER."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scratch
4 Hosp. scan
7 Ashen
8 Ridicule
10 Director Forman
11 Seek, as office
13 Breakfast order
16 Simile center
17 Four-star reviews
18 FDR project
19 107, to Cato
20 Actor Johnny
21 Velocity
23 Apple centers
25 And others (Lat.)
26 French cheese
27 Plopped down
28 Pink hue
30 Insult, slangily
33 Steak-house order
36 Eucalyptus eaters
37 Start of a supplication
38 Move furtively
39 Smile
40 Trail the pack
41 Thesaurus wd.

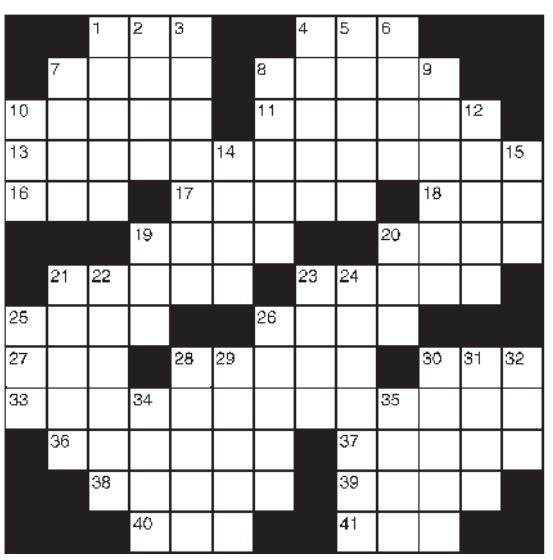
DOWN

1 Island south of Sicily
2 Oodles
3 Set aside
4 Bea Arthur sitcom
5 Littlest littermates
6 Data
7 Name of 12 popes
8 Fountain of Rome
9 Precisely
10 CEO's deg.
12 Answers an invitation
14 Incursion
15 Phone bug
19 Cartoon frame
20 Rap's Dr. —
21 Desolate
22 Cookout spots
23 Beach crawler
24 Drilling platforms
25 Mentalist's claim
26 Invigorating
28 Salsa singer Cruz
29 Borneo ape, for short
30 "Mack the Knife" singer
31 "This — outrage!"
32 Pigs' digs
34 Teen hangout
35 Grand Ole —

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	E	■	T	■	L	E	D	■	M	I	S	S
O	D	E	R	■	O	R	O	■	U	N	T	O
A	I	D	A	■	V	A	C	U	U	M	E	D
■	E	A	G	J	E	S	■	S	M	E	W	S
■	■	■	I	S	R	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
M	A	R	C	H	■	V	A	C	U	O	U	S
A	D	O	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	R	K	O
V	A	C	C	I	N	E	■	T	S	A	R	S
■	■	■	A	B	S	■	Y	A	P	■	■	■
A	L	I	N	E	■	L	E	X	■	C	O	N
V	A	C	A	I	I	C	N	■	U	O	U	O
I	D	O	L	■	F	I	■	■	E	D	O	M
S	S	N	S	■	S	N	L	■	H	A	H	E

Yesterday's answer 3-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fergie, 44; Nathan Fillion, 48; Mariah Carey, 49; Pauley Perrette, 50.

Happy Birthday: Choose the best route this year, not the easiest. Hard work will pay off and help you build the confidence required to set higher goals and standards. Turn this into a year of conquest and greater understanding. Use experience to bring about changes that add quality to your life and to your relationships with others. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 26, 30, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look at the ins and outs of whatever you are dealing with. Check the rules and standards that are in place, then consider how best to deal with situations that need some tweaks. Using common sense and practicality will trump discord. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Carefully study every situation you face. Do your research and make strategic plans that will help you achieve your goal. Taking action will motivate others to join in and help. A personal change will have a positive emotional effect on you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't look back or let what others say or do mess with your plans. Focus on what will bring you greater opportunities and help open your mind to new possibilities. Live in the moment, and make the most of your time. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Live life your way. Consider alterations that will bring you joy and make you feel good about the way you look, what you have to offer and the job you do. Be creative, but don't exaggerate or overspend. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let emotions interfere with what you need to accomplish. Learn as you go, and project a positive attitude that will encourage others to lend you a helping hand. Work with what you've got, and stay within budget. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look at the possibilities and what you can accomplish. Pledge to do what counts and what will bring the highest returns. Change begins within, and your attitude makes the difference. Proceed with an open mind and heart. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Acknowledge what others say and do, but don't feel you have to conform to ideas and plans that aren't in your best interest. Live life your way. Contribute what you can without jeopardizing your own dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pleasure, entertainment, romance and personal enjoyment should be your priorities. Work hard to make time to spend with someone you love or to follow a creative or innovative pursuit that promotes personal happiness. Personal change will result in emotional stability. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Revamp your situation. Address matters that concern you, and be prepared to walk away from people who aren't honest or those who tempt you to do things you shouldn't. Concentrate on your home base and how to improve your life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put more energy into physical strength and health. Exercise and proper diet will bring positive changes that will encourage you to strive for a better lifestyle. Personal and home improvements will inspire you to spend less and enjoy more. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't feel you have to make a change because someone else does. Do your own thing, and pursue what you feel is best for you. Helping those less fortunate will change your attitude as well as your goals. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful what you wish for. Too much of anything will result in loss. Stay focused on what's important and what will promote the best future. Helping others will bring you greater satisfaction than overspending or being indulgent. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are reserved, tactical and insightful. You are worldly and sage.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			6		
6		1		4		2
	1		6	2	7		8	
		1				9		
2		8				1		6
	6	5				2	4	
		6				3		
	5		7	3	9		6	
	4						5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	6	9	1	5	2	7	8
1	9	7	8	2	3	4	6	5
5	8	2	4	7	6	1	9	3
3	6	9	7	5	2	8	1	4
7	5	1	3	8	4	9	2	6
2	4	8	1	6	9	5	3	7
8	7	3	2	4	1	6	5	9
6	1	4	5	9	7	3	8	2
9	2	5	6	3	8	7	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GLEN WOOD (1925-2019) Solution: 8 letters

E	C	N	A	R	F	I	F	T	Y	T	R	O	F	P
B	I	R	P	A	N	C	H	F	A	S	T	D	A	E
Y	N	S	E	N	I	G	N	E	R	T	R	R	R	T
A	D	O	N	W	I	N	S	B	O	I	E	A	M	T
R	Y	Ⓟ	S	W	S	W	I	N	V	P	N	N	W	Y
B	A	Ⓤ	K	I	O	L	S	E	A	D	W	O	A	E
O	A	Ⓒ	E	R	L	O	R	R	E	S	O	E	L	N
R	T	K	K	I	M	L	D	L	A	T	C	L	T	R
O	N	T	E	C	H	B	A	C	F	C	U	A	E	U
U	E	E	E	R	O	N	L	O	H	N	L	L	R	G
G	V	A	A	N	O	T	Y	A	D	O	D	A	A	N
H	E	M	E	E	N	T	S	G	N	A	P	D	Y	I
R	L	V	S	D	R	O	F	L	S	E	A	P	L	C
P	E	A	R	S	O	N	B	E	B	A	Y	N	E	A
S	T	W	E	N	T	Y	O	N	E	I	D	D	E	R

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Ada, Allison, Baker, Bayne, Bill, Blaney, Bonnett, Cars, Clay, Crews, Cup, Daytona, Delano, Driver, Eddie, Eleven, Engines, Farm, Fast, Fifty, Ford, Forty, Foyt, France, Glen, Gurney, Indy, Kim, Leonard, Lund, NASCAR, Owner, Panch, Pearson, Penske, Petty, Pits, Racing, Ray Lee, Sadler, Seven, Stock Car, Team, Twenty-One, Walter, Wins, Woodchopper, Work, Yarborough

Yesterday's Answer: Obsession

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- Must be familiar with CDT dental procedure code for billing
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- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

Drop Resume with photo to our office located in Microbeach Road, Saipan
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Job Vacancy Announcement

(4) Child Care Workers
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- Willing to take pre-service training

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- Must be computer literate
- Must have tutorial experience
- Willing to take pre-service training

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(New/Full-Time)

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- Must be familiar with coding specific for dental procedures electronic claim processing and related computer skills.
- Must have reference and letter of recommendation.
- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

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NEW WAVE DENTAL

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Renewal (Full-Time)

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- Experience in assisting required.

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No Phone calls please

NEW WAVE DENTAL

Is looking to hire one (1) employee to work as

Dental Assistant
New (Full-Time)

- Minimum 3 years Clinical experience required
- Must be able to assist dentist, know sterilization set-up instruments, take radiographs.
- Must have reference and letter of recommendation.
- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

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REFUNDS

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Find today's solution in classified section

Federer finishes with flurry of aces

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Roger Federer knew he had things going his way at the Miami Open when he hit three shots off his frame during a wild 17-stroke exchange and still won the point because Filip Krajinovic dumped a half volley into the net.

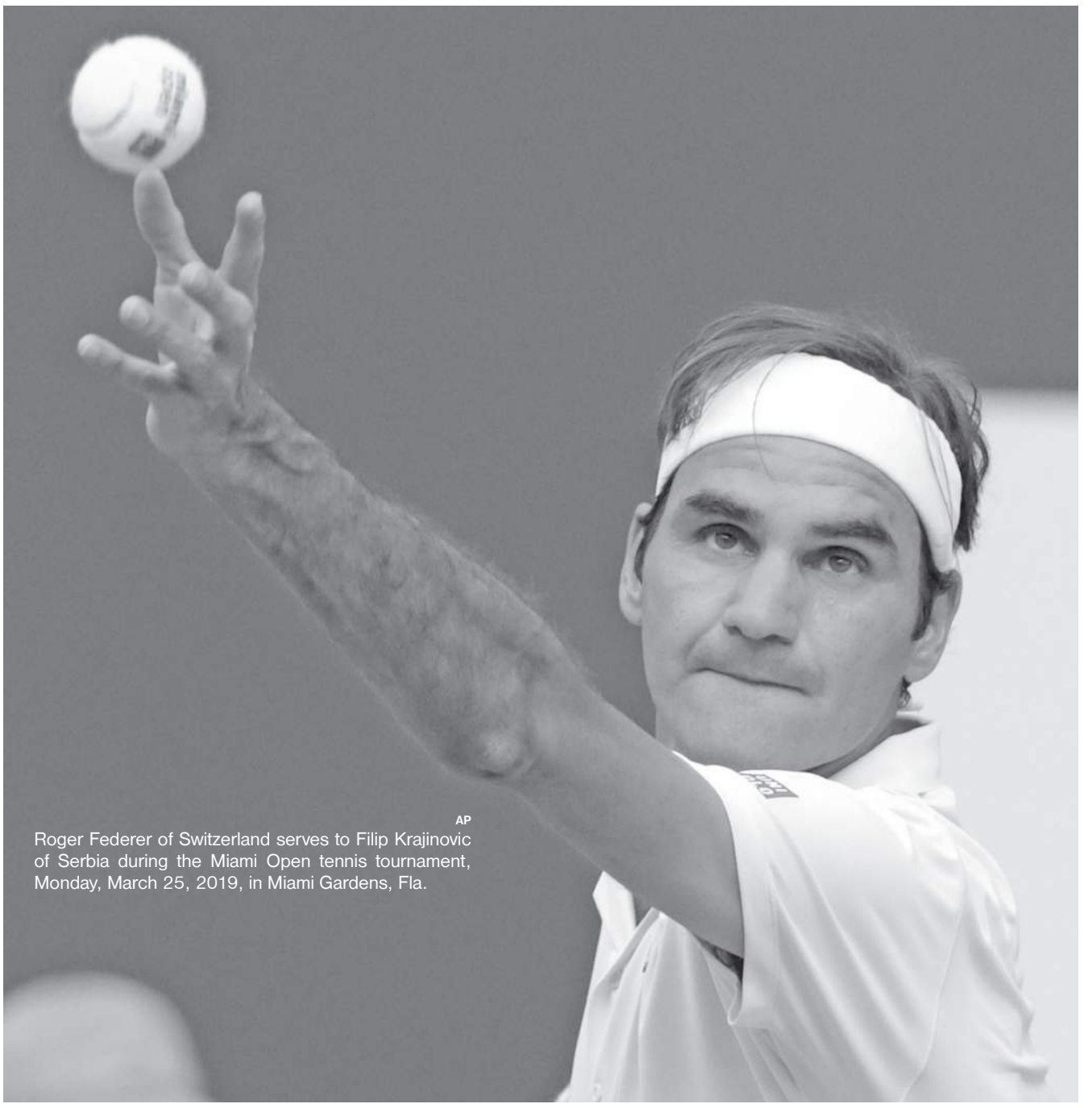
Krajinovic quickly grabbed the ball and flipped it over the net as if continuing the rally, which drew cheers from the crowd and a smile from Federer.

"We're not robots," Federer said. "I like when players show emotion like Filip did in that instant. It was a weird, strange, ridiculous point that I got very lucky to win somehow."

A little lucky and really good, Federer won, 7-5, 6-3, Monday to reach the fourth round. He improved to 14-2 this year, signaling he's a threat to win his fourth Miami title.

He'll next play No. 13 Daniil Medvedev, who won a battle of dominating serves against 6-foot-11 qualifier Reilly Opelka, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-6 (0). There were no service breaks but plenty of aces—19 by Medvedev and 22 by Opelka.

Among those departing in the women's fourth round were Venus Williams and Indian Wells champion Bianca Andreescu. Williams lost to No. 2-seeded Simona Halep 6-3, 6-3, and Andreescu retired with a right shoulder injury while trailing Anett Kontaveit 6-1, 2-0.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Filip Krajinovic of Serbia during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 25, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Andreescu, who is tied for the WTA lead with 20 match victories this year, said she felt pain and tightness in the shoulder.

"I've played so many matches," the 18-year-old Canadian said. "I guess it's just my body's way of telling me it has had enough. The doctor said it's nothing too serious, but the pain is there."

Andreescu said she will skip the tournament next week in Charleston, South Carolina, but plans to play the Fed Cup on April 20-21.

She called a medical timeout after the first set to receive treatment, and received similar treatment during her third-round victory over Angelique Kerber, who afterward told Andreescu she was the "biggest drama queen ever."

Andreescu defeated Kerber in the Indian Wells final on March 17 for her first career title. The injury ended Andreescu's bid to become the fourth woman to win Indian Wells and Miami back to back.

"I'm pretty upset," she said. "But I really can't complain, with what I've achieved."

Halep and Kontaveit were joined in the quarterfinals by Petra Kvitova, who faced only one break point and beat Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-3. Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, is ranked a career-high No. 2 and will rise to No. 1 if she wins the title. No. 1 Naomi Osaka lost in the third round.

Kvitova's match was interrupted by rain for more than 90 minutes, and she took advantage.

"I had a quick nap, which was really helpful," she said.

Federer was only slightly delayed on his way to victory. Serving in the final game, he smacked aces on the first three points, and then hit another ace that skipped off the line to seal the victory—or so it was ruled.

While awaiting a replay review, Federer and Krajinovic walked to the net and discussed the call.

"He thought it was in," Federer said. "I'm thinking, 'Why did he think that?' It was quite clearly out."

Federer was correct, and when the call was overturned, he gave Krajinovic a wave as if to say, "See you in a minute." He needed only one more serve to complete the victory.

Honoring rivalries: Packers-Bears to open 2019 schedule

PHOENIX (AP)—As part of the celebration of its 100th season, the NFL will break from tradition and feature the Packers vs. the Bears in its season opener Sept. 5.

Usually, the Super Bowl champion is the home team for the prime-time opener, but the league wants to salute historic rivalries in 2019. None fits better than Chicago-Green Bay. The teams have met 198 times since 1921, when the Bears were the Chicago Staleys. Green Bay leads the series 97-95-6, including the clubs splitting two postseason games.

Staging the Thursday night game at Chicago's Soldier Field—even if it is a modernized version of the stadium—adds to the theme. There will be a free fan festival and concert in nearby Grant Park and, for the first time, the league has approved a free viewing event of the game in the park.

"We see that around other sports," said Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president for league events. Such viewings, for example, have been a staple of the World Cup for decades, and hockey also has adopted the practice. "It will create a big festival environment."

This will be the first time since 2003 the Super Bowl champion has not played in the opener. New England instead will open at home in the prime-time game Sunday night, Sept. 8. The opponent has not yet been determined. The full schedule will be announced next month.

"With the 100th season, we want to do something to kick it off in a special way," said Hans Schroeder, the league's chief operating officer of media. "We're celebrating the Bears, one of the original member clubs, in their 100th season, and the Packers are in their 101st. It's an iconic matchup."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel invoked the name of George Halas, the team's founder, in welcoming the news.

"George 'Papa Bear' Halas and the NFL's co-founders probably didn't imagine the federation they established 100 years ago in cities and towns across the Midwest would one day be the most successful professional sports league in the world," Emanuel said in a statement. "But that's what their vision achieved. Chicago—the most American of American cities—is the perfect venue for this game."

Schroeder and Brian Rolapp, the NFL's chief media and business officer, outlined other plans for the 100th season: NFL Films will produce a series that selects the 100 greatest teams, plays, games, characters and game changers; an all-time team is being chosen and will be featured in a TV series; and Peyton Manning will talk to fans around the country about the history of the NFL for another television series.

The league also disclosed plans for next month's draft that will supplement the proceedings in Nashville. Teams will make selections in eight of the original 13 towns that comprised the NFL for its first season. In Dayton, Ohio, the field used back then, Triangle Park, still exists, and a selection will be made there. The NFL also has committed to installing new turf on the field.

"This is a really special moment for our city," Dayton mayor Nan Whaley said.

Ronaldo injured for Portugal; big wins for France, England

An injury to Cristiano Ronaldo exacerbated Portugal's frustrating start to its European Championship title defense.

Things couldn't be going much better for free-scoring England and France.

Ronaldo hobbled off in the first half with an apparent right hamstring injury in Portugal's 1-1 draw with Serbia in Lisbon, which came three days after the titleholder's 0-0 draw with Ukraine also at home.

They are the Juventus forward's first games for his country since last year's World Cup, since when he was accused of rape in the United States. He has denied any wrongdoing.

While Portugal has made a slow start to qualifying, England and France are already well on their way to topping their groups.

England beat Montenegro 5-1 away to follow up its 5-0 thrashing of the Czech Republic on Friday in Group A. It is the first time England has scored five or more goals in successive games since 1984.

The match was marred by apparent racist chanting toward England's black players from Montenegro fans. England coach Gareth Southgate said the English Football Association would be making a complaint to UEFA.

After opening Group B with a 4-1 win over Moldova, France had a more impressive 4-0 win over Iceland with Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann scoring second-half goals.

As Ronaldo limped off the field, thoughts inevitably turned to Juventus' upcoming Champions League quarterfinal with Ajax. The first leg is on April 10, and Ronaldo said he could be back in time.

"I'm not worried, I know my body," Ronaldo told Portuguese media. "I should be back in one or two weeks."

Ronaldo pulled up hurt at the Stadium of Light while sprinting to try to reach a long pass. After leaving the field, the 34-year-old forward sat by the sideline and removed the captain's armband before doctors arrived and treated his leg.

Ronaldo stayed on the bench throughout the match, cheering on his teammates who came from behind to earn a point.

Blazers lose Nurkic to leg injury, win playoff berth

AP
Brooklyn Nets forward Joe Harris, center, defends against Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Monday, March 25, 2019.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Jusuf Nurkic had 32 points and 16 rebounds before suffering a gruesome left leg injury in the second overtime, and the Portland Trail Blazers outlasted the Brooklyn Nets 148-144 on Monday night.

Nurkic was hurt when his leg bent awkwardly as he battled for an offensive rebound. His leg was immobilized and he was removed on a stretcher while surrounded by members of both teams.

The Blazers pulled out the game without him to clinch a playoff berth, but the loss of its starting center having his best season could be devastating for a Portland team already playing without injured guard CJ McCollum.

Damian Lillard finished with 31 points and 12 assists for Portland, while D'Angelo Russell had 39 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Brooklyn.

Nurkic's basket made it 134-132 with 3:40 to go into the second overtime. With center Jarrett Allen and Ed Davis having fouled out and the Nets left without a big man, Nurkic had a huge advantage inside whenever he posted up or went for rebounds.

But he was hurt while doing so, with bodies falling all around him. After he was taken off the court, Anfernee Simons made two free throws for Portland to put them up 136-132.

A 3-pointer by Rodney Hood extended the lead to 139-132 forced the Nets to start fouling.

There were 12 lead changes and 15 ties over the course of the game, with Portland leading 95-90 after three.

The Nets, however, would storm back in the fourth thanks to the play of their bench.

Jazz 125, Suns 97

In Salt Lake City, Devin Booker scored from all over the court. Rudy Gobert and a host of Utah Jazz players did their damage from much closer to the rim.

Gobert dunked his way to a season-high 27 points and set the single-season NBA dunk record to fuel Utah to a victory over the Phoenix Suns, who got 59 points from Booker.

Booker topped the Vivint Arena record of 51 points by Karl Malone on Dec. 9, 1995, and his previous season high of 55, set in December in a triple-overtime loss to Washington.

Grizzlies 115, Thunder 103

In Memphis, Bruno Caboclo scored a career-high 24 points, Tyler Dorsey added 21 and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Delon Wright finished with 18 points and a career-best 13 assists for the Grizzlies. Jonas Valanciunas added 18 points and 14 rebounds.

All five starters finished in double figures as the Grizzlies ended a two-game slide.

Paul George led the Thunder with 30 points and 12 rebounds, while Dennis Schroder added 25 points on 9-of-14 shooting. Russell Westbrook finished with 16 points and seven assists, but was just 6 of 20 from the field and missed five of his six 3-point attempts.

Oklahoma City lost for the fifth time in six games.

Magic 119, 76ers 98

In Orlando, A little desperation went a long way for the Orlando Magic.

The Magic shut down the Philadelphia 76ers in the second half of a 119-98 victory on Monday night that moved them within a half-game of eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

"They were desperate. They played like it and we did not," said 76ers coach Brett Brown, whose team was held without a field goal for a second-half stretch of nearly 12 minutes. "Nik Vucevic is a really difficult matchup and (Evan) Fournier really had a fantastic night. Their desperation was evident."

Vucevic had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Fournier scored 24 points for the Magic, who outscored the 76ers 30-5 while Philadelphia missed 15 straight shots.

"It's impressive, especially when you look at all the firepower tVhey have, even without Ben Simmons," Vucevic said. "We needed this win with a tough road trip coming up, starting tomorrow night in Miami."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	51	23	.689	—
x-Philadelphia	47	27	.635	4
Boston	43	31	.581	8
Brooklyn	38	37	.507	13.5
New York	14	60	.189	37

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	55	19	.743	—
x-Indiana	45	29	.608	10
Detroit	37	36	.507	17.5
Chicago	21	53	.284	34
Cleveland	19	55	.257	36

Southeast Division

Miami	36	37	.493	—
Orlando	36	38	.486	0.5
Charlotte	34	39	.466	2
Washington	30	44	.405	6.5
Atlanta	26	48	.351	10.5

WESTERN DIVISION

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	50	23	.685	—
LA Clippers	44	30	.595	6.5
Sacramento	36	37	.493	14
LA Lakers	32	41	.438	18
Phoenix	17	58	.227	34

Southwest Division

x-Houston	47	27	.635	—
San Antonio	43	31	.581	4
New Orleans	31	44	.413	16.5
Memphis	30	44	.405	17
Dallas	29	44	.397	17.5

Northwest Division

x-Denver	49	23	.681	—
x-Portland	46	27	.630	3.5
Utah	44	30	.595	6
Oklahoma City	43	31	.581	7
Minnesota	33	40	.452	16.5

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antetokounmpo or Harden? MVP race is far from decided

Last season's NBA Most Valuable Player will be in the building Tuesday night as James Harden and the Houston Rockets make their annual Milwaukee visit for a at Fiserv Forum with the Bucks.

This year's MVP will be there, too.

Harden and Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo have spent most of the season as the top candidates for MVP, and one of them almost assuredly will take home the honor. There's plenty of debate as to which one is worthier, but with apologies to Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George, almost no one would inject another candidate into the discussion. There just isn't much of a case to be made.

The Journal Sentinel recently took an informal straw poll of 25 media members outside Milwaukee who cover the NBA and were among the 100 voters for last season's league awards. Each was prompted to provide their MVP with 13 choosing Antetokounmpo, 10 voting for Harden and two saying the race was too close to call at this point.

That sample, while interesting, may not necessarily be indicative of how the actual vote will go. Most indicated they are very much on the fence, only leaning in a particular direction and willing to go the other way upon deeper consideration or new developments over the final eight games of the season. Some may not be part of this year's voting bloc—a group that has not yet been assembled by the NBA—due to personal preference or job change.

While the debate reaches a fever pitch over the final two weeks of the regular season, Antetokounmpo is content to ignore the noise. He hasn't discussed the MVP or publicly campaigned for the award.

"I'm definitely trying to avoid it, I don't want to think about it," Antetokounmpo said. "I just want to do my job. We've got eight games left. Trying to get better, trying to improve and trying to play basketball at a high level and everything's going to take care of itself."

His only colorful comments regarding the award came in the heat of the moment on Feb. 6. That's when, following a dunk in transition against the Washington Wizards, he yelled out, "I'm the (expletive) MVP" while pounding his chest with both hands.

Outside of that, though, he hasn't campaigned and isn't going to, even if others think he should.

"My thought process on all of that is just to get better," Antetokounmpo said. "That's never going to change; I don't care if we're playing in the Finals or me being the MVP or whatever. It's never going to change. It's always about getting better. It's worked so far, so I know it's going to work."

At 36.4 points per game, the reigning MVP owns the highest scoring average in the league since 1986-87 when Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan finished at 37.1. Only Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain have had a higher scoring average over a full season than Harden's current clip. His signature step-back jumper is on the way to ascending to the level of NBA lore—if it hasn't already.

Harden is more than just a scorer, though. He has the ball in his hands more than any player in the league and he can orchestrate at a high level, too. His assist percentage ranks fourth in the league and he entered Monday eighth at 7.5 per game.

Unlike years past when he was discredited for his lack of effort on defense, Harden has shown marked improvement on that end. Entering Monday, he led the NBA in deflections, an indication of defensive activity and involvement. He doesn't rank among the league's best defenders in most other categories, but there's less of a question about his buy-in at that end, which is especially impressive considering his astounding offensive prowess.

Armatech survives Kanoa; MJD routs Cell Pro

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Armatech Corporation thwarted the Kanoa Krusher's comeback bid for a 70-62 win in their game in the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League last Sunday at Koblerville Gymnasium.

Armatech withstood the Krusher's rally in the third quarter by churning out 16 points in the fourth. Stephen Tolosa submitted 5 points in the decisive fourth period, while Bruce Berune, Ed Cosino, Jun Park, Martin Moreno, and Renato Gaviola combined for 11 points to stiff-arm the Krushers.

Kanoa faced a 17-point deficit at the end of the first half, 30-47, but roared back with a 23-point explosion in the third frame to move within one, 53-54, heading into the last period. Dindo Dablo fired 15 points for Kanoa in the third canto, 6 came from 3-point land, while Fradel Sedillo logged 6 markers in the squad's comeback bid.

Kanoa nearly tripled Armatech's production in the penultimate frame, as the latter was held to 8 points. However, after a hot start in the second half, the Krushers sputtered in the fourth and mustered only 9 points.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

MJD Warriors' Jack Aranda pulls up for a point-blank shot during their game against Cellular Pro in the Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, MJD Warriors erupted for 36 points in the fourth period to scorch Cellular Pro, 106-87.

With the Warriors clinging to a one-point lead at the end of the third period, 70-69, Jack Aranda, Jun Tabora, and Jaymark De Guzman snowballed in the fourth to bury Cellular Pro. Aranda had 14 markers in the fourth, while Tabora and De Guzman finished with 8 and 6 points, respectively. Cellular Pro's Sonny Ebuen countered with 11 markers, but the rest of his team tallied just 6 points in the final canto.

Tabora led all scorers with 28 markers, while Aranda and De Guzman made 21 apiece. Alex Ocampo was the fourth player for the Warriors to finish in double figures with his 17 points.

Ebuen top-scored for Cellular Pro with 26 points, while Gio Dancel had 24 markers.

Pacific Postal Plus 63, Islander Rent-A-Car 53

After three close quarters, Pacific Postal Plus pulled away in the fourth for a double-digit winning margin against Islander Rent-A-Car.

Pacific Postal was up by only 3, 42-39, when Ryan Odicta shone in the fourth period and scored 8 points. Jener Pineda, Jonathan Broncano, Lando Laxamana chipped in 4 markers apiece in the crucial frame to ground Islander.

First Game

Armatech 70—Gaviola 19, Tolosa 17, Moreno 9, Cosino 7, Park 7, Berline 6, Valencia 3, Malasarte 2.

Kanoa 62—Pablo 27, Daubra 12, Lumauag 10, Sedillo 7, Quinitip 6.

Scoring by quarters: 27-18, 47-30, 54-53, 70-62.

Second Game

MJD 106—Tabora 28, Aranda 21, De Guzman 21, Ocampo 17, Usi 9, Bisana 7, Dayrit 3.

Cellular Pro 87—Ebuen 26, Dancel 24, Santos 19, Samson 14, Garcia 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 45-42, 70-69, 106-87.

Pacific Postal 63—Odicta 21, Broncano 14, Pineda 10, Usi 10, Emmerson 4, Laxamana 4.

Islander 53—Tandoc 14, Saplan 13, Cortez 11, Pangelinan 11, Manabat 4

Scoring by quarters: 8-8, 23-23, 42-39, 63-53.

HANMI Golf Classic set for May 11

The 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held on May 11 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Registration forms are now available at: LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, or at www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

"HANMI is pleased to once again announce our annual golf tournament to help raise funds for charities we support through the years," HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh said. "In the past year alone, we have supported the Rota Relief Drive for Typhoon Mangkhut Recovery, HANMI Holiday Meal Giveaway for Typhoon Yutu Recovery, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Marianas Tourism Education Council, Saipan Senior Advisory Council, Saipan Marathon, and more. We thank all our sponsors and players who made this possible through last year's tournament, and we look forward to another great tournament this year."

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

"The HANMI tournament does not only offer great prizes, but also gives everyone a chance to win, thanks to our popular black-jack double peoria format," said tournament chairman Steve Balakrishna of Pacific Islands Club Saipan. "Due to Yutu, we, too, are giving golfers a break with an incredible early bird rate of only $100. We encourage everyone to sign up early and join us for a fun day on the course on May 11."

The early bird tournament fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $120 after the early bird deadline on Apr. 26. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including accurate drive on line (west course's hole No. No. 9), accurate drive circle (No. 5), aggressive drive (No. 12), longest drive (No. 18), and nearest to the pin (No. 3, 7, 13, 17). The tournament will start at 7am, while the awards banquet will be held at the 6pm at Grandvrio Resort.

Sponsors can avail of complimentary player slots for several levels of support: $1,200 or more cash/ 2 two complimentary slots; $600-$1,999 cash/one complimentary slot; or $600 or more in-kind donation/one complimentary slot.

To sponsor the tournament or for more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1-670-234-7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(PR)***

GCA

From Page 28

riod in an attempt to mount a comeback, as they surpassed their output in the first three quarters in the final canto. Lani Lishoalo banked a trey and made a putback for 5 points, Avelia Yu added 4 markers, and Keziah Garcia willed in an and-1 layup, but couldn't cash in on the bonus shot.

Despite Agape's team effort, GCA hung tough and made enough baskets to keep its lead and take the second and last finals berth. Mt. Carmel gained the automatic first finals ticket after topping the regular season.

Meanwhile, Agape came from behind and escaped with a narrow victory over Saipan International School, 35-34, at the Geckos court in As Lito.

Jonathan Xiong and John Chen led the Torchbearers' rally after firing 12 and 9 points respectively, while Kuu Nishimura recorded 11 markers and A.J. Hudkins scored 9 in the heartbreaking loss for the Geckos.

Agape 1 finished the regular season at fourth place with its 9-5 record, while the Geckos locked themselves at No. 5 team with their 5-7 mark.

Meanwhile, the playoff round in the boys division will begin today at the various courts across the island. Over in Kagman, the top-ranked Ayuyus will face No. 8 ACS Agape 2, while a double-header will be played at the Koblerville Gymnasium with No. 2 MCS 1 battling No. 7 GCA at 3:30pm and No. 3 Saipan Southern High School facing No. 6 MCS 2. Then in Gualo Rai, No. 4 Agape 1 will host SIS.

GCA 28—Phan 18, Choi 6, Nunez 2, Saures 2.

Agape 21—Lishoalo 5, A. Yu 4, Garcia 4, Tang 2, Wu 2, Xu 2, I. Yu 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-4, 14-6, 21-10, 28-21.

SIS

From Page 28

100m run, while MHS' Jaime Pangelinan and Leani Acosta led Heat 2 and 3, respectively.

Tybaco also came in at first on Heat 1 of the 200m race and was followed by Agape's Amelia Yu and Hannah Yan, while Pangelinan, Castillo, and Acosta had a 1-2-3 finish on Heat 2.

In the 400m's Heat 1, Agape swept the Top 3 (Ivy Yu, Vivian Wu, and Wendy Tang), while Valino, Kagman's Aaliyah Indalecio, and SIS' Maria Gregoire made up the Top 3 on Heat 2.

In the field events, Pangelinan won in the long jump qualifier, while her fellow MHS students, Castillo and Sendrei Camacho, finished second and third, respectively. Six other students joined the qualifier.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's Maury Zon Tybaco runs in the 100m qualifying race in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Desdrei Camacho and Pangelinan gave MHS another 1-2 finish in the discus throw, while Agape's Keziah Garcia rounded out the Top 3. In the shot put, MHS swept the Top 3 with Halle Kenty leading the way and followed by Desrei and Valino.

Besides the U18 age group, the girls high school trials also have competitions in the U15 division. The Top 4 overall finishers (Saipan leg) in sprint events after the series of trials will advance to the championship round, which is set for May 10 and 11, while two slots are allotted for Tinian. In the middle distance runs and jumping and throwing events, the Top 8 in the Saipan leg will advance, while Tinian is also given two spots.

The same rules are implemented in the boys high school, middle, and elementary divisions. Results of other qualifiers will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week. Fourteen schools are competing in the elementary, 12 in the middle, and eight in high school.

KANOA

From Page 28

Southern United FC missed getting the solo lead after settling for a draw against TanHoldings FC, 1-1.

Rizza Relucio drew first blood for TanHoldings, but their team could not keep the shaky lead, as Nathanette Blas converted the equalizer for Southern United in the 60th minute.

Meanwhile, Matansa barged into the win column after edging out Paire, 3-2.

Pia Ngewakl made the go-ahead goal for Matansa in the 56th minute to complete their come-from-behind win.

Paire led at the break, 2-1, behind the brace of Erin Frink, who scored in the sixth and 10th minute. Matansa then cut the deficit to one at halftime, thanks to Barbara Peteru's shot in the 13th minute. Peteru went on to tie the game with her goal in the 37th minute before Ngewakl hit the dagger later.

GIRLS U19 DIVISION
Kanoa 12, Matansa 0

Kanoa also holds an unbeaten record in the girls U19 division (futsal) after clobbering Matansa last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Shairmaine Francisco and Paulynn Joyce showed no mercy against the hapless Matansa after firing five goals apiece, as they alternately found the back of the net for the streaking Kanoa.

With Matansa failing to fight back against Francisco and company, the team has yet to win a single game this season, while Kanoa earned its third in as many matches.

MP United 12, Southern United 3

MP United notched an easy win, too after dominating Southern United in the other game in the division.

Guinevere Borja was on target in their demolition of Southern United after making eight goals. McCallion added a pair, while Katrina Costales and Britany Wally chipped in one apiece.

Jerlyn Castillo scored two goals for Southern United, while Keisha Deleon Guerrero recorded one.

Rugby Sevens Exhibition Games

Guam Rugby Club and CNMI Men's National Team players battle at a lineout during an exhibition game at the CPA Airport Field this month. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI player runs away with the ball after a scrum.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI player tries to jump away from his defender.

A Guam Rugby Club loses the ball after getting tackled by a CNMI defender. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A CNMI player hangs on to the ball, as Guam Rugby Club defenders attempt to hold him down. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Guam Rugby Club player reaches in for a loose ball.

Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students and game organizers pose for a photo before playing flag rugby matches. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federer finishes with flurry of aces

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Blazers lose Nurkic to leg injury, win playoff berth

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GCA vs MCS in finale

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy secured the last finals berth in the girls division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League after beating Agape Christian School, 28-21, yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

After a close opening quarter, the Lady Eagles found their stride in the second to gain more cushion en route to the semis win and a finals date with the top-ranked Mount Carmel School this Friday.

Ahead by only 2 at the start of the second canto, 6-4, GCA captain Jasmine Phan fed a wide open Katriel Saures and the latter delivered with a midrange jumper. The Lady Eagles went on to run plays for Phan and she came through, scoring 6 points and giving GCA a 14-6 halftime lead. The Lady Torchbearers were nearly shut out in the second quarter before Wendy Tang drilled the team's lone basket late in the second period.

Then in the third frame, Tina Choi and Phan capitalized on their ceiling and athleticism, as they hustled for rebounds and scored on second-chance opportunities. The duo combined for 7 points in the penultimate quarter, handing GCA a double-digit lead, 21-10, heading into the final canto.

The Lady Torchbearers heated up in the fourth pe-

See GCA on Page 26

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan, left, is tightly guarded by two Agape Christian School defenders during their semis game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

SIS, MHS ahead; Agape lurks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners leave at the starting line of the 800m qualifying race in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Saipan International School and Marianas High School emerged as the early favorites in the girls high school competition in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships, while Agape Christian School is not far behind as proven in the results of the first qualifier held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the girls U18's 800m trial, SIS had a 1-2 finish with Tania Tan and Anika Snyder timing in at 3:05.97 and 3:10.20, respectively. Agape's Elizabeth Yu submitted 3:11.47 to rank third.

Tan went also topped the 1,500m and 3,000m qualifying runs with Snyder placing second in the shorter race and fourth in the longer one. Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo and Ruschelle Valino were second and third in the 3,000m run, while Vivian Wu had the second best qualifying time in the 1,500m behind Tan.

In the sprints, SIS' Maury Zon Tybaco ruled Heat 1 of the

See SIS on Page 26

Kanoa keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sharmaine Francisco knocked in a pair of goals to help Kanoa Football Club maintain its undefeated record following a 2-1 triumph over MP United Football Club in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Francisco scored her first goal in the fourth minute, while Stellalou McCallion knotted up the count in the eighth before the former drilled the go-ahead in the 32nd for Kanoa's third victory out of four games. Kanoa, with its 3-1-0 win-draw-loss mark shares the top spot in the six-team field with Southern United FC, while MP United absorbed its second loss to remain at the bottom half of the standings.

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Sharmaine Francisco, right, catches up on defense against MP United Footbal Club's Stellalou McCallion during their girls U16 division game in the the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.